

# Special Patient Care

Theory and Practice of Pediatric Dentistry

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## Lecture Overview



- Medically compromised
- Types
- Medical History and Consults
- Medications
- Multidisciplinary Approach
- Office Designs
- Dealing w/ Parents
- Dental Implications
- Restraints

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## Introduction

- Children w/ serious medical and developmental problems often survive for prolonged periods of time.
- Medically compromised includes -
  - Congenital diseases
  - Acquired diseases
  - Developmental diseases
- Know all aspects of the disease, including medications.
- Important for the safety of the patient.

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## Types of Special Patients

- Cardiovascular Diseases
- Coagulation Disorders
- Respiratory Disorders
- Renal and Hepatic Disorders
- Convulsive Disorders
- Endocrine Disorders
- Chemotherapy and Radiation
- Immune Deficiency Disorders
- Developmentally Compromised
- Psychobehavioral Disorders
- Deafness
- Blindness

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## Medical History

- Obtain a good medical history.
- Get in touch with the child pediatrician and any other specialist.
- Assess need for premedication.
- Assess need to alter the current medication prior to dental Tx.

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## Medical Consults

- Whenever planning on treating a medically compromised child, always get a medical consult prior to treating the child.
- Keep a copy of the returned medical consult in the patient's chart.
- Ask and Inform -
  - Any concerns, contraindications and premedications required?
  - What you are planning on doing and what type of anesthesia you plan on using
  - Ask for clearance in writing

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## Medications



- Always be aware of all medications the child is taking.
- Know the medications ADR and interactions especially with local anesthesia.
- Keep an updated PDR or similar book in your office.
- Keep a copy of the information in the chart for future reference.

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## Multidisciplinary Approach

- Best form of management for Special Care patients.
- Sometimes the dentist can help evaluate the extra-oral and intra-oral findings in the identification of syndromes.



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## Dental Office modification

- Barrier free facilities to accommodate wheel chairs etc.
- Accessible dental operatory floor plans and movable equipment.
- Handicapped entrances and bathrooms.

QuickTime™ and a Photo - JPEG decompressor are needed to see this picture.

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## Dealing with Parents of Special Care Patients

- Flexibility w/ scheduling etc.
- Compassion
- Over-protectiveness
- Rejection and Guilt
- Overindulgence
- Education

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## Dental Implications

- Dental visit
  - Don't hesitate to develop a rapport w/ the child
  - May require the parent to assist taking radiographs
  - May need to improvise!

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## Dental Implications

- Preventive Dentistry
  - Most desirable way of ensuring good dental health especially in the medically compromised child.
  - Formulate an individual program and educate the parent and patient if possible.
  - May need to customize the handles etc for the patient.
  - Constantly reinforce the proper brushing technique, use of restraints and positioning of the child.



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## Dental Implications

- Diet and Nutrition
  - Proper diet
  - Make recommendations on an individual basis after consulting with the child's dietician or MD



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## Dental Implications

- Fluoride Exposure
  - Judicious use of topical and systemic if necessary
  - Weigh pros and cons of caries versus mild enamel mottling
- Preventive Restorations
  - Sealants whenever indicated
  - Placing Amalgams/filled resins in certain cases
  - SSC in some cases

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## Dental Implications

- Recall Visits
  - May need to recall every 2,3,4 or 6 months depending on the child's needs.
- Management during dental treatment
  - Additional time w/ child and parent
  - May need to use restraints
  - May need sedation or GA

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## Restraints

- Partial or complete immobilization
- Consent
  - You must obtain consent from the parent in writing that you have their permission to use the restraints
- Types -
  - Mouth
  - Body
  - Extremities
  - Head

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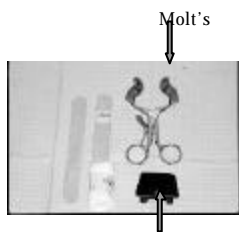
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## Mouth Restraints



Rubber bite block

- Molt's mouth prop
- rubber bite blocks
- padded and wrapped tongue blades
- **Caution**
  - Lip and palate lacerations
  - Tooth luxations

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## Body Restraints

- Papoose Board
- Triangular sheet
- Pedi-wrap
- Beanbag dental chair inserts
- Safety belts
- Extra assistant
- Parent
- **Caution** - interferences with medical devices

Papoose Board



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## Extremity Restraints

- Posey straps
- Velcro straps
- Towel and tape
- Parent
- Extra assistant
- *Caution - watch for deformed bones etc.*



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## Head Restraints



- Forearm-body support
- Head positioner
- Plastic bowl
- Extra assistant
- Parent

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## Summary

- Treating the Special Care patient requires complete familiarity not only with the child's condition, the medications the child is on and their interactions as well.
- A medical consult should be obtained if necessary.
- The parents of these children can show varying emotions and you need to be aware of them when dealing with them.
- Use of restraints may be necessary, caution must be exercised in their use after getting the necessary consent from the parent.

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