

**BASCD 2022 ABSTRACT 19****Facilitators to oral health behaviours and access for Applied/Clinical Neurodiverse adults***Andrews, F.,<sup>1\*</sup> Muirhead, V.<sup>2</sup>**<sup>1</sup>NHS Education for Scotland, UK; <sup>2</sup>Queen Mary University of London, UK***Background:**

Neurodiversity (ND) is a concept that describes the variations in the way the human brain functions. These individuals will have variation in how they process, execute, and understand tasks and information, how they interact socially and how they react to stimulus. Within oral health care these differences can mean individuals may face challenges with self-care oral health behaviours and lack positive dental care experiences.

**Objectives:**

Explore the evidence on oral health behaviours and dental care experiences of UK adults with applied/clinical ND, providing an evidence synthesis of the existing research, and develop recommended actions.

**Methods:**

Integrative Review Methodology was adopted, following a systematic approach, critical appraisal, evidence synthesis and conclusion drawing. Inclusion of published papers and grey literature, UK based, between 2007–2022, with no restrictions placed on study design. Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool was used for critical appraisal.

**Results:**

Articles (24) used in the review included quantitative, and qualitative studies, a Randomised Control Trial, Delphi survey, service evaluation, narrative reviews, opinion pieces, online educational resources, guidance documents and a conference abstract. Facilitators that enabled good self-care oral health behaviours and positive dental care experiences for UK adult patients with autism, intellectual disability, dyspraxia, and dyslexia were either the same or similar allowing for synthesis of the results. Four themes were identified showing facilitators present at a patient level, dental team and practice level, and at a wider systems level. Cutting across all levels was prevention.

**Conclusion:**

This review identified approaches that engaged adult patients with ND to inform and co-develop self-care oral health behaviour interventions and dental services could be key facilitators. Dental professionals should consider using heterogeneous approaches that move away from a disability model. This review makes recommendations for research, increasing awareness, and training for staff and support teams/carers.

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