

The Southern Association of Institutional Dentists

The Southern Association of Institutional Dentists (SAID) is an organization that addresses the oral health needs of institutionalized mentally and developmentally disabled clients. This organization's membership represents over 29 states, 63 institutions, three dental schools and over 300 individuals concerned largely with the treatment of institutionalized patients. Members of this organization represent institutional dentistry on national, state and local policy making and governmental legislation committees. The organization maintains a website at <http://www.saiddent.org/default.asp> as a means disseminating information to its membership. The largest benefit of a dental professional viewing this website is for the self study modules that it contains.

The home page of the website is just an introduction to the association and lists links to the *About Us Section*, *Next Meeting*, *Newsletter*, *Membership List* and *Forum*. Most of these links require a user name and password. The last two sections: *Modules* and *Links* are open to anyone using the website and are a valuable source of information about developmental and mental disabilities.

The *Modules* section includes the following topic areas: (1) Mental Retardation – A review for dental professionals; (2) Clinical Concerns in the Provisions of Dental Care for Clients with Mental Retardation; (3) Down Syndrome – A Review for Dental Professionals; (4) Cerebral Palsy – A Review for Dental Professionals; (5) Managing Maladaptive Behaviours: The Use of Dental Sedation for Persons with Disabilities; (6) Managing Maladaptive Behaviours: The Use of Dental Restraints and Positioning Devices; (7) Oral Manifestations in Genetic Syndromes with Mental Retardation; (8) Providing Dental Care to

Persons with Severe Disabilities Under General Anaesthesia; (9) Clinical Concerns in Dental Care for Persons with Mental Illness; (10) Treatment Planning for the Severely Disabled: Impact on Prosthetic, Restorative and Surgical Services; (11) Preventive Dentistry for Persons with Severe Disabilities; (12) The Provision of Dental Services to Disabled Individuals Residing in the Community; (13) Administrative Issues in the Practice of Dentistry in the MR/MH Institutional Setting and (14) Research Needs and Opportunities in MH/MR Facilities.

Each module is designed as a self-study and includes a purpose statement and learning objectives. All modules have an extensive reference list. The modules can be opened and printed in PDF format.

This website is easily navigated and contains a tremendous amount of information on mental and developmental disabilities. Even without working directly in an institutional setting, many dental professionals may have the opportunity to treat clients in this population. This website can aid the professional in gaining valuable knowledge about this population and the most common and effective treatment modalities utilized today.

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