

Supplementary Material

Questionnaire (Translated from Thai version)

Dentists' Attitudes Toward Dental Care Provision for Patients with Intellectual Disabilities in Northern Thailand

Study Information

The purpose of this study is to assess dentists' attitudes, perceived barriers, challenges, and factors influencing the provision of dental care for patients with intellectual disabilities (ID), in order to improve service systems and professional training. Participation is voluntary. All responses are anonymous and confidential. The information provided will be used solely for research purposes.

Definition

Intellectual and learning disabilities (ILD) refer to significant limitations in intellectual functioning (IQ below average) and adaptive functioning, affecting conceptual, social, and practical skills. These limitations impact daily living activities at home, school, work, and within the community. Associated conditions may include Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome.

Section I: Demographic and Professional Characteristics

1. Gender
 - ☐ Male
 - ☐ Female
2. Age (years)
 - ☐ 23–34
 - ☐ 35–44
 - ☐ 45–54
 - ☐ 55–59
 - ☐ ≥60
3. Postgraduate Education Status
 - ☐ Not enrolled in postgraduate study
 - ☐ Currently enrolled
 - ☐ Completed postgraduate study
4. Highest Educational Qualification (Select all that apply)
 - ☐ Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)

- ☐ Graduate Diploma
- ☐ Master's degree
- ☐ Residency Training Certificate / Board Certification
- ☐ Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

5. Current Professional Position

- ☐ General dentist
- ☐ Dentist with postgraduate degree (Master's/PhD)
- ☐ Board-certified specialist (please specify specialty): _____

6. Years of Professional Experience

- ☐ <5 years
- ☐ 5–10 years
- ☐ 11–20 years
- ☐ 21–30 years
- ☐ >30 years

7. Current Practice Setting

- ☐ Regional hospital
- ☐ General hospital
- ☐ Community hospital
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

8. Province of Practice: _____

9. Average Monthly Income (THB)

- ☐ <50,000
- ☐ 50,000–100,000
- ☐ >100,000

Section II: Experience in Providing Dental Care for Patients with Intellectual and Learning Disabilities (ILD)

1. Have you ever provided dental treatment to patients with intellectual disabilities?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No

2. Approximately how many patients with ILD are treated annually at your workplace?
 - ☐ None
 - ☐ <10 cases
 - ☐ 10–20 cases
 - ☐ >20 cases
3. Which age group do you most frequently treat among patients with ILD?
 - ☐ <12 years
 - ☐ 13–20 years
 - ☐ 21–59 years
 - ☐ ≥60 years
4. During your undergraduate dental training (DDS curriculum), how was dental care for patients with ILD included?
 - ☐ Theoretical instruction only
 - ☐ Clinical practice only
 - ☐ Both theory and clinical practice
 - ☐ Not included
5. In your postgraduate training (if applicable), how was care for patients with ILD incorporated?
 - ☐ Theoretical instruction only
 - ☐ Clinical practice only
 - ☐ Both theory and clinical practice
 - ☐ Not included
6. Which types of dental procedures do you provide for patients with ILD? (Select all that apply)
 - ☐ Oral examination
 - ☐ Extraction
 - ☐ Restorative treatment (fillings)
 - ☐ Prosthodontic treatment (dentures)
 - ☐ Scaling and periodontal treatment
 - ☐ Endodontic treatment
 - ☐ Emergency care (e.g., pain/swelling management)
 - ☐ Preventive care (e.g., OHI, dietary counseling)

- ☐ None
- ☐ Other _____

7. What challenges do you perceive when providing dental care to patients with ILD? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Behavior management
- ☐ Communication difficulties
- ☐ Extended treatment time
- ☐ Inadequate consultation/referral system
- ☐ Lack of training/clinical experience
- ☐ Inadequate facilities/equipment
- ☐ Insurance or treatment coverage issues
- ☐ Suboptimal treatment outcomes/relapse
- ☐ Other: _____

8. What is the availability of multidisciplinary support or referral networks in your practice setting?

- ☐ Available and sufficient
- ☐ Available but insufficient
- ☐ Not available

9. Which behavior management approaches do you use when providing dental care to patients with ILD? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Non-pharmacological techniques (e.g., Tell-Show-Do, distraction, protective stabilization, parental presence)
- ☐ Nitrous oxide sedation
- ☐ Conscious sedation
- ☐ General anesthesia
- ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ Other: _____

10. Compared with general patients, how would you describe the treatment time for patients with ILD?

- ☐ Longer
- ☐ Shorter
- ☐ Similar

11. Does severity of disability increase treatment complexity?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
12. Are oral manifestations different from general patients?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Unsure
13. How adequate are the facilities in your workplace for providing dental care to patients with special needs?
- ☐ None
 - ☐ Inadequate
 - ☐ Adequate
14. Who usually accompanies the patient during dental visits? (Select all that apply)
- ☐ Primary caregiver with decision-making authority
 - ☐ Primary caregiver without decision-making authority
 - ☐ Legal decision-maker (not primary caregiver)
 - ☐ Neither caregiver nor decision-maker
 - ☐ Not applicable
15. How is dental treatment for patients with intellectual and learning disabilities covered in your setting?
- ☐ Fully covered
 - ☐ Partially covered
 - ☐ Not covered
 - ☐ Unsure
16. Compared with general patients, how are treatment fees for patients with intellectual and learning disabilities?
- ☐ Same
 - ☐ Different
 - ☐ Unsure
17. Are patients with ILD financially prepared to receive dental treatment?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Unsure

Section III: Attitudes Toward Dental Care Provision

Please indicate your response using the appropriate scale where applicable.

1. How confident are you in providing dental treatment to patients with intellectual and learning disabilities?

☐ 1 (Not confident at all) ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 (Very confident)

2. How would you rate the level of stress or pressure you experience when providing dental care to patients with ILD?

☐ 1 (None) ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 (Very high)

3. How does stress affect your provision of dental services to patients with ILD?

- ☐ No impact
- ☐ Minor impact
- ☐ Reduced service provision
- ☐ Refusal to provide treatment

4. If given the option, would you prefer to avoid treating patients with intellectual and learning disabilities

- ☐ Yes, would refer
- ☐ No

5. Undergraduate education is insufficient in preparing students for treating patients with ILD

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

6. What type of additional training would you be interested in for providing dental care to patients ILD?

- ☐ Degree program
- ☐ Short-term course
- ☐ Not interested

7. Additional training would increase my confidence in treating patients with ILD

☐ 1 (Strongly disagree) ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 (Strongly agree)

8. My previous education adequately prepared me to provide dental care to patients with ILD

☐ 1 (Strongly disagree) ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 (Strongly agree)

9. If adequate facilities and personnel were available, I would be willing to provide care to patients with ILD

☐ Yes

☐ Only preventive care

☐ No

10. Who do you think should have primary responsibility for providing dental care to patients with ILD?

☐ All dentists

☐ Advanced general practitioners

☐ Pediatric dentists

☐ Community dentists

☐ Other specialists: _____

11. How would you rate the adequacy of the referral network for patients with ILD?

☐ Sufficient

☐ Insufficient

☐ None

12. What is your level of awareness of policies related to dental care for patients with ILD?

☐ Not aware

☐ Aware but do not understand

☐ Partially understand

☐ Fully understand

13. Would having better facilities increase your confidence in providing dental care to patients with ILD?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
14. Would greater availability of trained personnel and an effective referral system increase your confidence in treating patients with ILD?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
15. Is the complexity of treating patients with ILD different from that of general patients?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure
16. Do you think providing dental treatment to patients with ILD carries a risk of unintentional injury?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
17. Would increased financial incentives affect your willingness to treat patients with ILD?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No change
18. Would improvements in the dental care system increase your willingness to treat patients with ILD?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No change

-----End of the questionnaire-----