



## Why Special Care Dentistry Matters Most?

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### Abstract:

Focus towered Special Care Dentistry (SCD) is highly increasing worldwide. It is recently recognised as a registered speciality in UK, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and recently Saudi Arabia . The WHO International Classification of Functioning (ICF) defines the people requiring special care dentistry (SCD) as people with “a disability or activity restriction that directly or indirectly affects their oral health, within the personal and environmental context of the individual”.

According to the Joint Advisory Committee for Special Care Dentistry in UK, Special Care Dentistry is concerned with: ‘The improvement of oral health of individuals and groups in society, who have a physical, sensory, intellectual, mental, medical, emotional or social impairment or disability or, more often, a combination of a number of these factors’

The WHO estimates that there are over a billion people with disabilities worldwide. Usually the people with disabilities are underreported. General dentists often find this population too challenging to treat due to several factors such as their complex level of needs and difficulties in communication, creating great barriers to access mainstream dentistry by this population. It has been estimated that 90% of people requiring SCD can receive treatment in a local, primary care centre; however the provision of



optimal SCD in a primary care setting depends upon adequate education and training for the whole dental team.

This lecture is an overview that aims to increase the knowledge about Special Care Dentistry (SCD), raise awareness toward developing SCD holistic approach and encourages education, team working and positive attitudes towards disability within the whole dental team.

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