Sensory Impaired Patient
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Americans with Disabilities Act
- Disabled
- Communication
- Removing Barriers

Definitions
★ Blind
★ Legally blind
★ Hearing Impairment
★ Deaf

Causes of Visual Impairment
Age-related
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Macular degeneration
- Senile cataracts
- Glaucoma
- Vascular disease
- Trauma

Children
- Prenatal-maternal infections (rubella, syphilis, toxoplasmosis)
- Injuries
- Neoplasms
- Retinopathy of prematurity (increased as more babies survive)

Personal Factors of Visually Impaired
- Common characteristic: difficulty seeing
- Consider each patient as an individual
- Patient history
  - Child
  - Learning Ability
  - Personal Factors
- Adult

Total Blindness Dental Hygiene Care
Factors:
- Explain in detail
- Other senses
- Tone of voice
Visual Impairment Modifications
- Chair
- Hazards
- Eyewear
- Guide dogs

Modifications for Clinical Procedures/Instructions
- Describe
- Mention
- Permit
- Discuss
- Speak
- Learning by feel

Instructions should be clear and concise

Partially Sighted Dental Hygiene Care
- Denial (elderly)
- Signs
- Avoid glare
- Work slowly and patiently
- Patients with glaucoma

Causes of Deafness
- Hereditary
- Prenatal Exposure
- Infectious diseases
- Trauma
- Age-related
- Drugs

Characteristics of Hearing Loss
- Lack of attention
- Doesn’t respond in conversation
- Strained facial expressions
- Stares at others
- Turns head to one side
- Gives answer unrelated to question asked
- Frequently asks others to repeat

Hearing Aids
- Current Aids:
  - In-the-Ear
  - Canal Aid
  - Cochlear Implants
Types of Communication
- American Sign Language (ASL)
- Fingerspelling
- Oral communication
- Speechreading
- Writing
- Interpreter

Dental Hygiene Modifications
- Hearing Aids
- Power driven Instruments
- Speaking and Noises
- Mask
- Non-verbal communication

Medical Concerns
- Accurate health history
- Prepared for emergencies
- Tx planning
- Compromised infection control

Resources
Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist, E. Wilkins. 11th ed. Ch. 59
Mosby’s Comprehensive Review of Dental Hygiene, M. Darby. 7th ed. Ch. 19
http://www.dimensionsofdentalhygiene.com/2016/07_July/Features/Caring_For_Patients_With_Hearing_Impairment.aspx
http://www.dentalbuzz.com/2013/11/10/chairside-sign-language/
Case Study 1

Anna is a new patient who is totally blind. It is the first time she has been to the office. She has a service animal that will accompany her for the appointment. She reports no chief complaints and has no medical concerns or allergies on her medical history.

What modifications would you make for Anna’s first appointment?

Case Study 2

Brody is an adolescent patient who is has been totally deaf since birth. He is a patient of record, but lately his oral hygiene has declined and his subsequent caries risk is increasing. He is scheduled for a cleaning today and his mother brought him, but stays in the waiting area during his appointments.

What modifications would you make for Brody’s appointment?

What do you plan to address for patient education and how do you plan to communicate this with him?