

Abstract submitted to the Irish Society of Disability and Oral Health 2018

Ms Catherine Waldron

Title: Oral hygiene programmes for people with intellectual disabilities; A Cochrane Review

Background: People with intellectual disabilities (ID) have difficulty in both understanding the importance of removing dental plaque and developing the skills to do so; achieving the standard of oral hygiene necessary for good oral health may require the support of others. Whilst there have been many systematic reviews of oral health interventions for the general population, none have specifically reviewed oral health interventions for people with disabilities.

Aim: This review assesses the effects of oral hygiene interventions for people with ID.

Methods: Completion of a systematic review following the Cochrane standards. Study designs included RCT, NRCT, Interrupted Time Series and Repeat Measure studies. The primary outcome was gingival health; secondary outcomes included oral hygiene skills and knowledge acquisition by people with ID and their carers, adherence to oral hygiene routines, dental caries levels, quality of life changes or long-term, patient-centered outcomes for people with ID. All papers were screened and data extracted by two reviewers independently. Descriptions of ID were converted to the ICD-10 definition. The COM-B system was used to characterize the potential behaviour changes and functions within the interventions.

Results: 2847 papers were identified, of which 217 met the inclusion criteria for full texts review. Thirty-four studies were finally included, representing a variety of intervention types such as electric and manual toothbrushes, training of carers and/or people with ID and use of visual aids. A multitude of indices were used. The impact of consistent support on intervention outcomes was observed. Implications for research, practice and policy are considered.

Word Count: 250 words