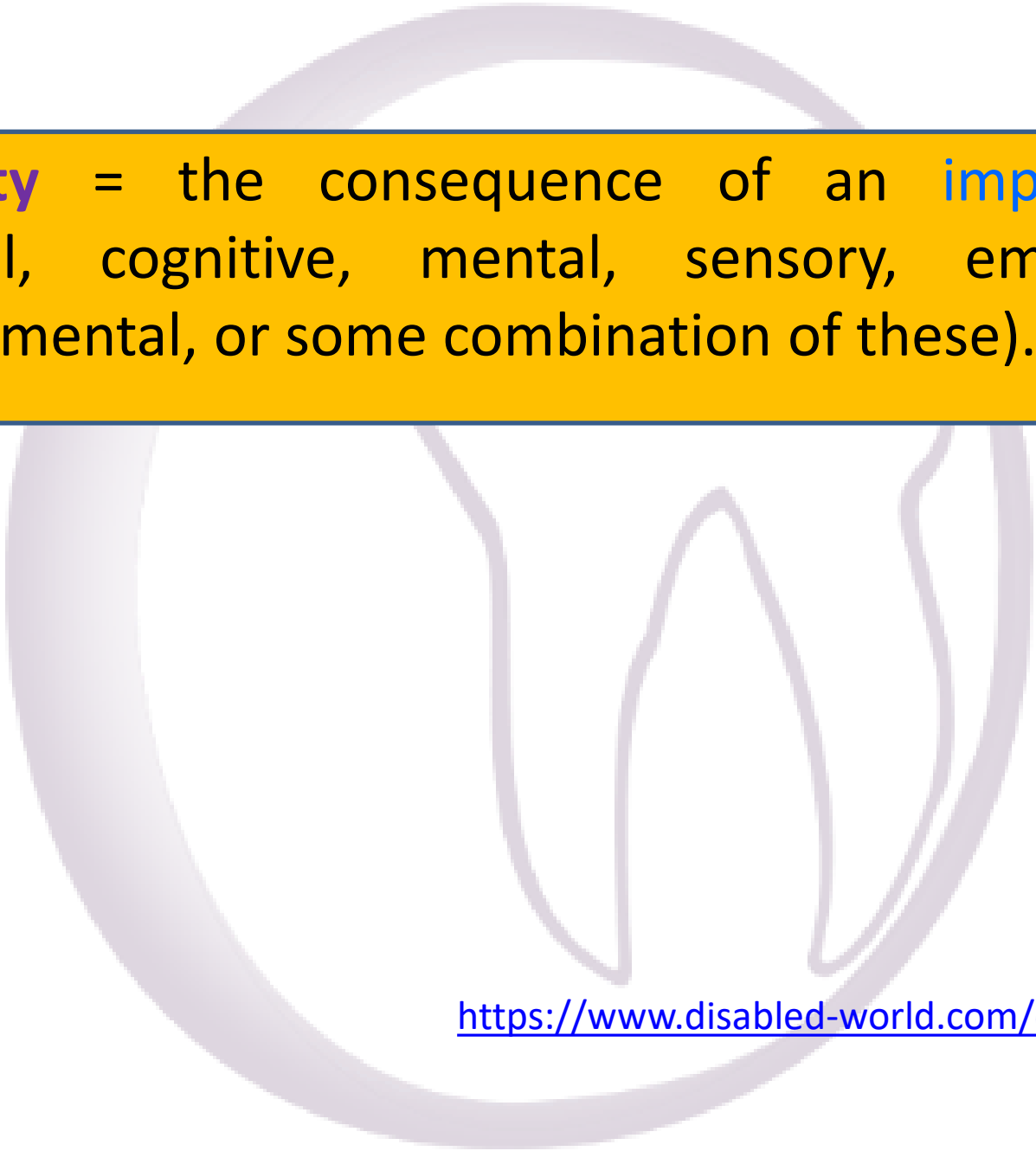




DISABILITY :

Definitions





Disability = the consequence of an **impairment** (physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional, developmental, or some combination of these).

<https://www.disabled-world.com/disability/>

Various types of **chronic disease** may also qualify as disabilities.

Disability - present from birth / may occur during a person's lifetime.



For example, people in wheelchairs may have been born this way or something may have happened during their lifetime that has rendered them unable to use their legs.

Special needs patients

- = Individuals who require assistance for disabilities that may be medical, mental, or psychological. These patients have been called disabled, impaired, or handicapped.

Wang YC, Lin IH, Huang CH, Fan SZ – Dental anesthesia for patients with special needs. Acta Anaesthesiologica Taiwan 2012; 50(3): 122-125. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aat.2012.08.009>





Vlad likes to say that “behind every boy in a wheelchair there’s somebody doing the pushing” – and he can’t be more right.

Parents and caretakers of children with special needs deal with a huge amount with concerns derived from their children’s condition, and this requires a huge amount of time and energy.

This is one reason why *oral health sometimes may fall on a secondary level of concern* from their point of view.

It is the role of dental professionals to adequately explain the importance of oral health in a comprehensive, non-judgemental way, and to find efficient, personalized ways to communicate with families and improve it.

WHO definitions

Disability

- any restriction or lack of ability to perform an activity in a normal way or within the manner considered normal for a human being
- Results from interaction between a person's health condition or impairment and the multitude of influencing factors in the environment

Impairment

- any loss or abnormality in physiologic as well as anatomic structural function.

WHO definitions

Handicapped

- the disadvantage of a given individual, resulting from an impairment of disability, that limits or prevents the fulfillment of expectation or a role that is normal for an individual.

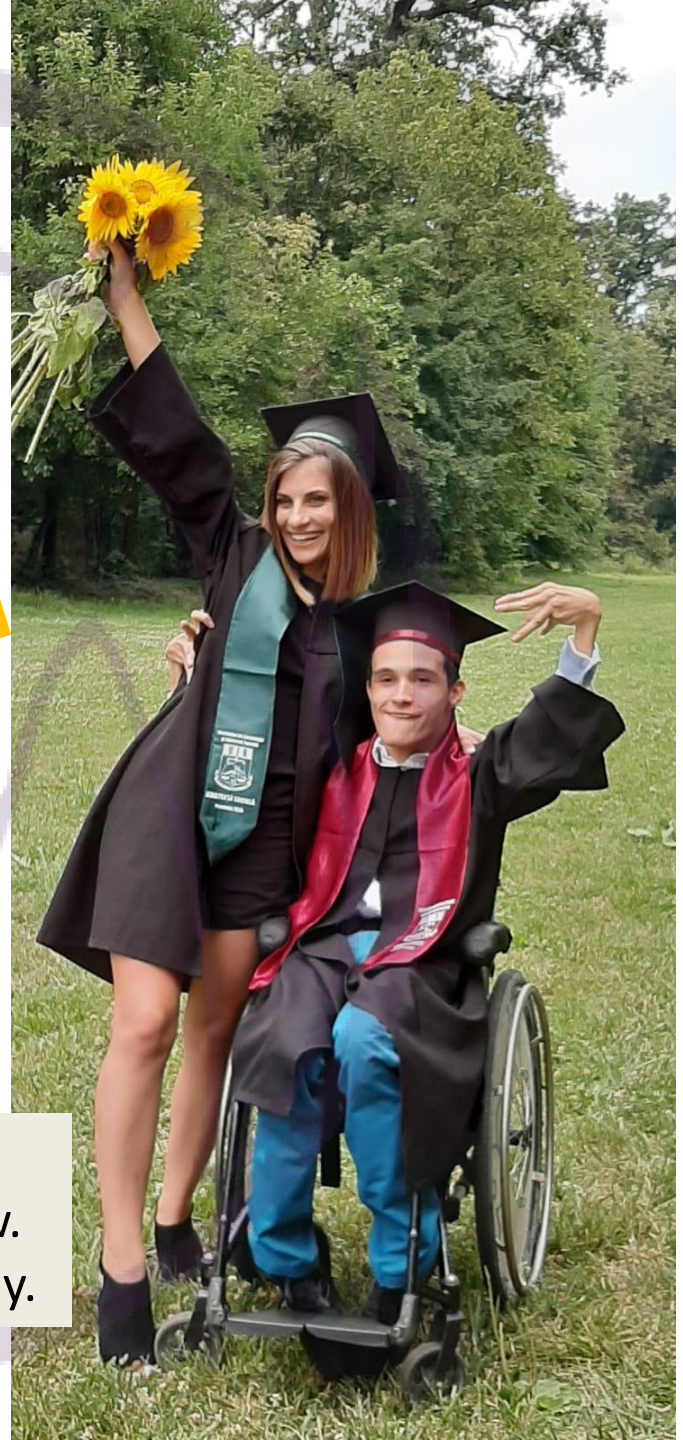
https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/41003/9241541261_eng.pdf?sequence=1

The term "handicapped" has a negative connotation and can be considered offensive.

"Disabled" is neutral, therefore it's an acceptable choice.

Could anybody
call a university
graduate
“handicapped”??

Vlad just got his degree in Sociology.
Two postgraduate Master programs follow.
Vlad never let cerebral palsy stay in his way.



University of Delaware guidelines

Impairment

- deviation from normal, such as not being able to make a muscle move or not being able to control an unwanted movement

Disability

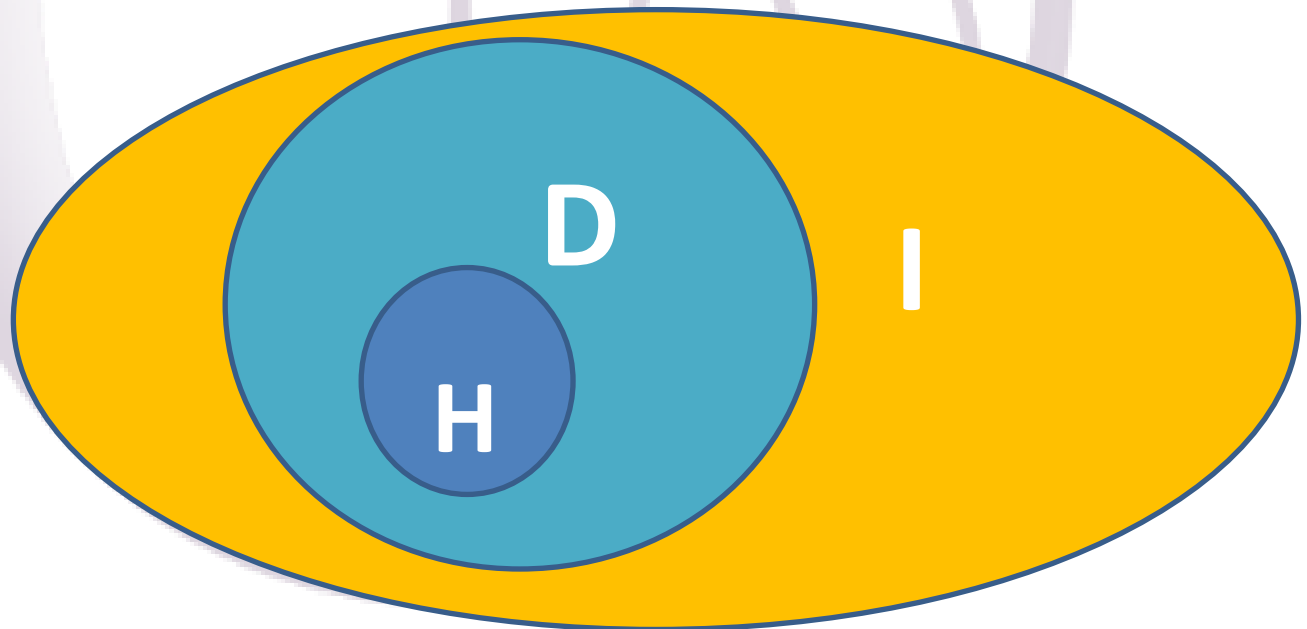
- a restriction in the ability to perform a normal activity of daily living which someone of the same age is able to perform.

Handicap

- the term used to describe a child or adult who, because of the disability, is unable to achieve the normal role in society commensurate with his age and socio-cultural milieu.

“All disabled people are impaired, and all handicapped people are disabled, but a person can be impaired and not necessarily be disabled, and a person can be disabled without being handicapped.”

<https://www.disabled-world.com/disability/>



Intellectual disability (ID)

- definition -

3 elements :

- a significant impairment of intelligence;
- a resultant significant reduction in adaptive behaviour/social functioning;
- the development of the condition before the age of 18, which persists throughout life.

([Schalock 2010](#))

Special health care needs - AAPD definition -

- “Any physical, developmental, mental, sensory, behavioral, cognitive, or emotional impairment or limiting condition that requires medical management, health care intervention, and/or use of specialized services or programs.
- The condition may be congenital, developmental, or acquired through disease, trauma, or environmental cause and may impose limitations in performing daily self-maintenance activities or substantial limitations in a major life activity”.

<https://www.aapd.org/research/oral-health-policies--recommendations/special-health-care-needs/>

Domains of functioning can be affected by disability

- Learning and applying knowledge
- General tasks and demands
- Communication
- Basic physical mobility
- Domestic life
- Self-care (eg. activities of daily living)
- Interpersonal interactions and relationships
- Community, social and civic life, including employment
- Other major life areas.

<https://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en/>

Disability

- Disabilities is an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions.
- Disability is thus not just a health problem. It is a complex phenomenon, reflecting the interaction between features of a person's body and features of the society in which he or she lives.

<http://www.who.int/topics/disabilities/en/>

Classification

8 main types of disability

1. Mobility/physical
2. Spinal cord (SCI)
3. Vision
4. Hearing
5. Head injuries (TBI)
6. Cognitive/learning
7. Psychological
8. Invisible

1. Mobility and Physical Impairments

- upper limb(s) disability
- lower limb(s) disability
- manual dexterity
- disability in co-ordination with different organs of the body



2. Spinal cord disability

- mostly occurs due to severe accidents
- sometimes a birth defect

3. Head injuries-Brain disability

- acquired brain injury
- traumatic brain injury

4. Vision disability

- scratched cornea
- scratches on the sclera, diabetes related eye conditions
- dry eyes
- corneal graft

5. Hearing disability

- Completely/partially deaf

6. Cognitive disability

- Developmental delay/mental retardation; a child with IQ scores of 70 to 75 or lower
- **Mild cognitive disability:** IQ scores 55-70; usually included in the regular classroom.
- **Moderate cognitive disability:** IQ scores 30-55
- **Severe cognitive disability:** IQ scores <30, few communication skills
- **Clinical Diagnosis include:** Down syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Autism, Dementia, Dyslexia, Attention Deficit Disorder, Dyscalculia

7. Psychological disorders

- Personality disorders
- Schizophrenia

8. Invisible disabilities

- / Hidden / Non-visible Disabilities (NVD)
- not immediately apparent - chronic illnesses and conditions that significantly impair normal activities of daily living

Every person has an equal right to medical care.



4 core components:

- Availability (quantity)

- Accessibility

- non-discrimination
- physical accessibility
- economical accessibility (affordability)
- information accessibility

- Acceptability (ethics)

- Quality

- safe
- effective
- people-centred
- timely
- equitable
- integrated
- efficient

Special health care needs patient (*)

- Requires times and ways other than routine ways in preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic operations
- ‘non-collaboration’ patient → equipped operating environment & trained medical and assistance staff
- **Disabled person** (= physical, mental impairments, intellectual/sensory) + **barriers of different nature** → **ineffective participation in society**

(*) as defined by the Italian Ministry of Health in “Indicazioni per la presa in carico del paziente con bisogni speciali che necessita di cure odontostomatologiche”, 2019

Equal Rights

- No discrimination in the health or any other sector → **reasonable accomodation + universal design**
- **‘Reasonable accomodation’**= adaptations and changes for to ensure enjoyment and exercise for people with disabilities on an equal basis with others without imposing disproportionate or excessive burden
- **‘Universal design’**= products, services, structures, programs usable for all people

“Indicazioni per la presa in carico del paziente con bisogni speciali che necessita di cure odontostomatologiche”, 2019

Special care patients – Behavioral categories:

- collaborating and autonomous patients
- poorly collaborating and autonomous patients
- patients who are not autonomous, but collaborating or poorly collaborating;
- uncooperative patients

“Indicazioni per la presa in carico del paziente con bisogni speciali che necessita di cure odontostomatologiche”, 2019

Special care patients - Behavioral issues

Autonomous collaborating patients

- Fragility and/or health vulnerability
- Associated pathologies=increase risk → particular precautions

Poorly collaborating and autonomous patients

- Associated pathologies → peculiar management & management skills report → specific training of the dental team

“Indicazioni per la presa in carico del paziente con bisogni speciali che necessita di cure odontostomatologiche”, 2019

Special care patients - Behavioral issues

Non-autonomous patients, but collaborating or poorly collaborating

- Frailty and/or health vulnerability or mental, physical, sensory disability
- Have lost/never had the ability for oral health care

Uncooperative patients

- Frailty and/or health vulnerability or mental, physical, sensory disability
- Unable to collaborate in the dental office
- Diagnostics and treatment under sedation or GA
- Suitable, equipped environment, adequately trained staff

“Indicazioni per la presa in carico del paziente con bisogni speciali che necessita di cure odontostomatologiche”, 2019

References and further reading

- Wang YC, Lin IH, Huang CH, Fan SZ – Dental anesthesia for patients with special needs. Acta Anaesthesiologica Taiwan 2012; 50(3): 122-125.
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- https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/41003/9241541261_en.pdf?sequence=1
- Definition of Special Health Care Needs-
<https://www.aapd.org/research/oral-health-policies--recommendations/special-health-care-needs/>
- <https://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en/>