



the Child Dental Patient with

Oral aversion



Oral aversion



Definition : From simple disgust to refusal to eat in severe cases, resulting in child malnutrition with consequences for the growth and development of the child.

Etiology : Hyperexcitability of mechano-receptors and chemoreceptors for taste and smell. No organic lesion but a problem when processing the sensory information.

Prevalence : up to 80% of children with disabilities. Particularly high in children with autism spectrum disorders

Hye Ran Yang . How to approach feeding difficulties in young children. Korean J Pediatr. 2017 Dec;60(12):379-384.

Senez C. Rééducation des troubles de l'oralité et de la déglutition. 2ème édition. Editions De Boeck; 2015.

Consequences for the patient's life

Depending on the severity of the disease

Possible clinical features

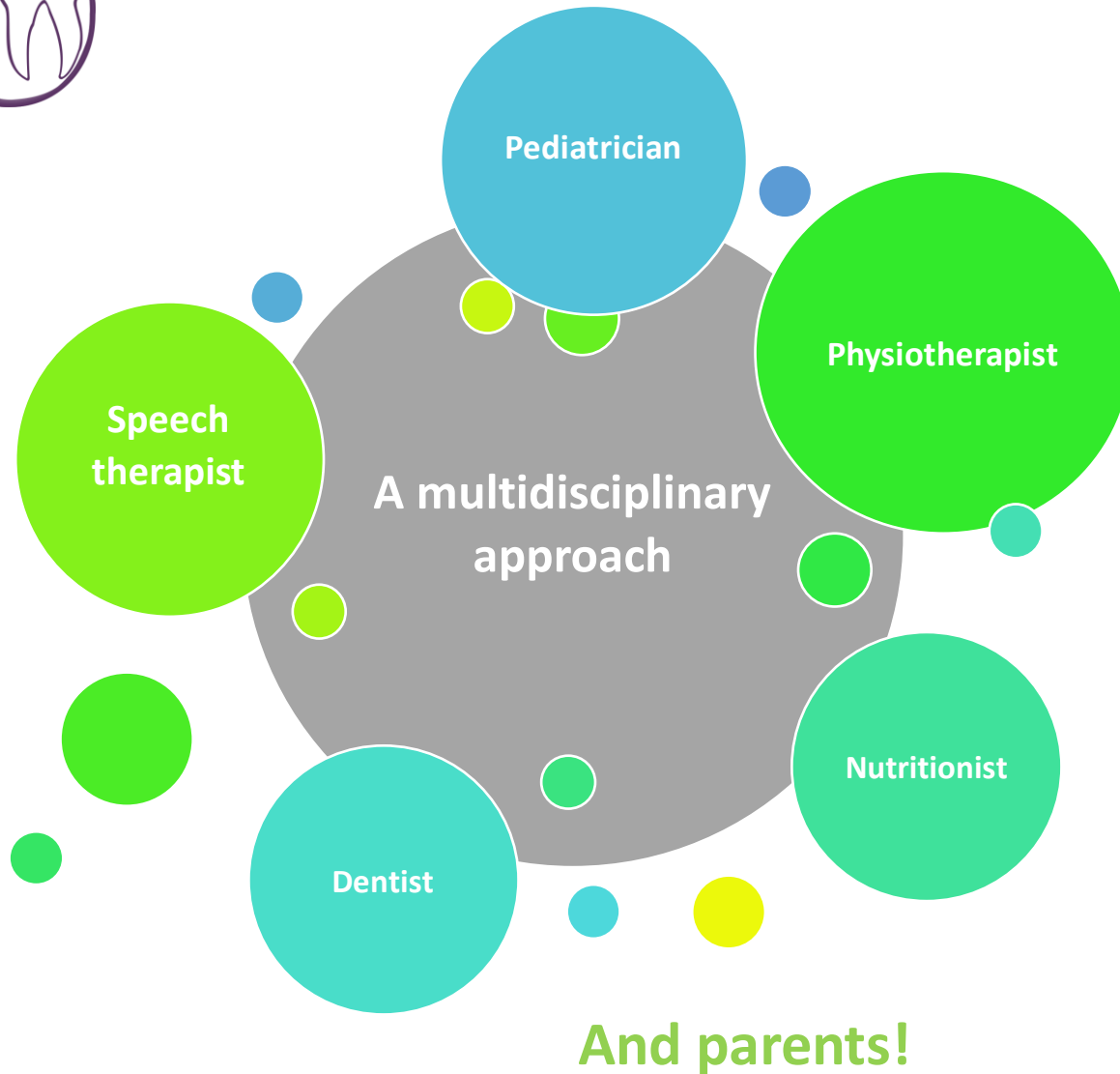
- **Sensory food aversion**, rejection of specific foods because of the texture, smell, taste, temperature or appearance.
- **Gag reflex** during eating, toothbrushing, dental care etc. May go so far as to vomit and cause tooth erosions.
- **Speech disorder** : difficulties in positioning the tongue to pronounce some phonemes.
- **Behavioral problems at mealtime**: slowness, refusal to eat, crying... with consequences for family life.

Chatoor I. Sensory Food Aversions in Infants and Toddlers. Zero Three J. 2009.

Hye Ran Yang . How to approach feeding difficulties in young children. Korean J Pediatr. 2017 Dec;60(12):379-384.

When to refer to a specialist?

- No oral exploration in toddlers.
- Difficulties in introducing the first foods that persist beyond 8 months.
- Difficulties in introducing consistent foods at 12 months.
- Only mixed and smooth foods at 16 months.
- Frequent gagging or vomiting on contact with food and then refusal to eat.
- Child who accepts fewer than 20 different foods and does not cover all four food groups at 18 months.
- Avoidance of mealtime, crying, no pleasure in eating.
- Aversions and avoidance of specific textures.
- No coverage of nutritional needs and / or weight loss



Therapeutic care

Sensory integration therapies :
tactile stimulation and oral motor
desensitization.

**Stepwise approaches with positive
reinforcement**