

Guidelines for Tooth Brushing

1. Use of an electric tooth brush should be attempted in case Client may be more tolerant of brushing his teeth with a toothbrush that vibrates. In addition, a powered tooth brush may clean Client's teeth better during the limited window of time in which he is tolerant of staff assistance.
2. Because Client only briefly tolerates dental care, it is recommended that staff focus on one of three portions of Client's mouth during each tooth brushing. Hopefully in this manner a more thorough job of cleaning can be accomplished.
3. Staff should offer Client a great deal of encouragement before, during and after each time he brushes his teeth.
4. Once Client backs away from the toothbrush, staff should not attempt to restrain him nor physically control his movement. Staff may ask Client to try again or to allow them to do a more thorough job, but physical intervention is not believed to be warranted due to the serious risk of aggression and injury that accompanies aggression and physical management thereof.