**Abstract**

The aim of the doctoral thesis was to comprehensively examine dental care for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), covering hygienic, adaptive, and orthodontic aspects. The work is based on four publications - two original studies and two reviews—analyzing both oral health and factors hindering dental treatment in this group of patients.

Clinical trials were conducted at the “CWR Persevere” Development Support Center in Katowice among 148 children aged 3-12. The results showed that children with ASD have significantly poorer oral hygiene, higher caries indices (DMFT/dmft), OHI and SBI, and less frequent check-ups at the dentist compared to neurotypical children. In addition, orthodontic examination showed that children with ASD required orthodontic treatment more often than the control group, with the most commonly observed defects being retrognathia and open bite.

Review analyses confirmed the effectiveness of individual adaptation strategies, such as video modeling, sensory adaptation of the office, and visual aids to facilitate communication. Numerous barriers to accessing dental care were also identified, both on the part of patients (sensory hypersensitivity, communication deficits) and on the part of the system (lack of staff training, insufficient number of specialized facilities).

The results of the study are an important contribution to the development of an interdisciplinary model of care for children with ASD, emphasizing the need to integrate dentistry, psychology, and behavioral therapy. The development of consistent clinical guidelines that take into account the specific needs of patients with ASD can significantly improve the quality and effectiveness of dental treatment and the comfort of patients and their families.

**Key words:** Autism Spectrum Disorder; Dental Care for Children; Oral Hygiene; Orthodontics; Behavioral Adaptation.