

SETTING

Speech Pathology Clinic

PARENT

You are the parent of a 12-year-old boy with mild cerebral palsy. He is having difficulty with saliva control (drooling). Your family doctor referred him for speech pathology. Your son is not present.

TASK

- When asked, say your son has difficulty controlling his saliva particularly between mealtimes. He is becoming increasingly frustrated and angry about this.
- When asked, say your son is moderately independent; he can feed himself using a fork and spoon and is attending a learning programme.
- Say you're not sure about oral motor therapy; you think surgery might be a better option.
- Say you understand now that it's better to try oral motor therapy before thinking about surgery.
- Say you'll make an appointment for your son at the clinic as soon as possible.

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PATHOLOGIST

You are seeing the parent of a 12-year-old boy with mild cerebral palsy (spastic quadriplegia) who is having difficulty with saliva control (drooling). The family doctor has referred the child for advice and support. The child is not present.

TASK

- Confirm reason for child's referral (advice/support for saliva control). Find out more details about child's problem with saliva control (frequency, impact on child, etc.).
- Find out further relevant details about child (level of independence, support available for child, etc.).
- Outline main approaches to saliva control (e.g., medication, surgery, oral motor therapy: improving mobility, awareness, coordination, strength, etc.). Recommend oral motor therapy (e.g., non-surgical management, no side effects, etc.).
- Emphasise benefits of starting with speech therapy (e.g., conservative, less invasive, etc.). Explain surgical intervention (e.g., removal/repositioning of salivary glands, etc.). Stress potential risks of surgery (e.g., dry mouth, increased dental decay, hearing loss, taste loss, etc.).
- Outline next steps (e.g., bringing child in for assessment, beginning therapy, etc.). Give information on how to help child control saliva before then (e.g., visual prompts to close lips and swallow, etc.).