Getting rid of the bib….Enhancing the life of a disabled child

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Drooling is an unintentional loss of saliva from the mouth, and is considered normal in infancy until the age of 18 months, when the oral motor muscles mature. Drooling beyond this age is not normal, and is often associated with neurological problems, such as cerebral palsy, motor neuron damage, cerebro-vascular accidents and Parkinsonism. Patients with cerebral palsy generally present an intact swallowing reflex, though with a diminished capacity to control the initial voluntary preparatory phase, and a lack of coordination of the muscle activation sequence. Such patients have problems coordinating swallowing and breathing, and this in turn may inhibit the swallowing reflex when the mouth is full of saliva - thus resulting in drooling. A range of treatment options are available that include bilateral relocation of the submandibular gland ducts, use of transdermal scopolamine, botulinum vaccine, intraductal laser photoagulation of the parotid ducts, etc. This poster reviews various treatment strategies available to improve the health-related quality of life of disabled patients.

Biography
Pinky Thakkar has completed her Post Graduation in Pediatric Dentistry from University of Pacific Academy of Higher Education And Research, Udaipur, India. She has been practicing Pediatric Dentistry since the past two years. She has also written four articles which have been published in some of the reputed journals.

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