



An Article for *Downs Syndrome Quarterly*.

An innovative toothbrush is making an impact with Special Care Dentistry patients in the UK and Ireland . Dr George Collis, an American dentist has spent more than twenty years researching and perfecting his brush and it has already attracted a wide following in the USA and Australia.

The 'Collis Curve' has a unique design which means that it brushes all the tooth's surfaces simultaneously whilst gently massaging the gums and entering below the gum line to remove plaque more effectively than conventional brushes. In trials performed by the American Dental Association it removed up to 40% more plaque than a regular toothbrush and improved gingival health by up to 68%.

This also means that a simple backwards and forwards technique replaces the much more difficult scrub and roll and other brushing methods. This makes it particularly suitable for those with a limited ability to brush their own teeth, or those who have to brush other people's teeth. Some conditions, like Downs Syndrome and autism make the patient very resistant to lengthy cleaning sessions. Because the 'Collis Curve' immediately starts doing the job as soon as it is in the patient's mouth brushing time can be swift and the patient left undisturbed.

Dublin's central facilities for adult and child Special Care Dentistry are now working with the brush and it is being endorsed in the Irish outreach programme. In the UK a growing number of National Health Service Trusts are using it regularly. Through this and our website a number of charities caring for Special Care Patients have also started to promote it.

The brush can be bought online at www.colliscurve.co.uk or enquiries can be made via email at colliscurveuk@aol.com . If your readers would like to discuss their requirements with us we are available on [01934 862415](tel:01934862415)

[www colliscurve.co.uk](http://www.colliscurve.co.uk)

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