# **Conflict or Collaboration?** A Look at the Integration of Approaches in Addressing Severe Behaviors

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## Abstract:

Severe behaviors are prevalent in the population with Autism Spectrum Disorder. These behaviors often occur with such high frequency and intensity that the patient is unable to regularly attend the various health and education services that he or she requires. When referred to an intensive behavioral treatment service, the behavior analyst must work in collaboration with other professionals whose scope of practice and expertise enable the patient to speed up the patient's reintegration into his or her regular routine or who work in contexts relevant to intervention in severe behavior. The main objective of this presentation is to present guidelines based on the literature and personal experience on the role of the behavior analyst in the multidisciplinary context of caring for patients with severe behaviors. Relevant aspects of this interaction between different approaches will be discussed during what will be called the cycle of care for severe behaviors (i.e., the process of referral/admission, assessment, intervention, and reintegration of the patient into his or her regular routine). Common challenges in this collaborative process will also be addressed, such as ensuring an effective behavior recording system and fidelity to the procedures adopted. Finally, it is expected to promote reflection on the specificities of integrated treatment in the care of patients with severe behaviors.

Learning Objectives:

After this session, participants should be able to:

1. Define the scope of practice and scope of professional competence, providing examples in the context of treating severe behaviors that they were not aware of prior to the lecture.
2. Identify at least two responsibilities that the behavior analyst can assume in the context of multidisciplinary teamwork during the treatment of severe behaviors at different stages of the severe behavior treatment cycle.
3. Describe at least one strategy that contributes to increasing fidelity in recording target behaviors and adherence to treatment.

## About the Speaker:

Graduated in Psychology from UniFTC. Specialist in Applied Behavior Analysis (GMetodo/IEPSIS). Master and PhD candidate in Developmental Psychology from the Federal University of Bahia. Certified as a Qualified Behavior Analyst (QBA#12282) and member of the Research Group on Parenting and Socioemotional Development in Childhood (UFBA). Works as a clinical supervisor at the Instituto Baiano de Terapia Comportamental with children and adolescents diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and associated conditions.