

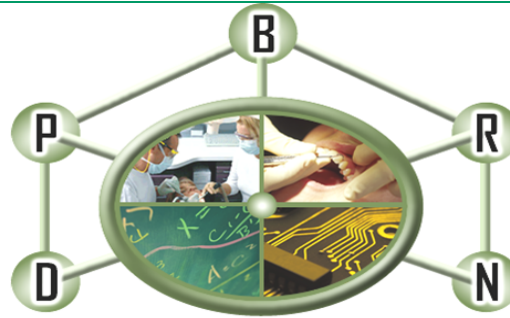
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Dental Practice-Based Research Network
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Each month we highlight a recent DPBRN publication, recent study results, or other important DPBRN information.

Abstract of DPBRN Publication of the Month

Rubber dam use during routine operative dentistry procedures: findings from The Dental PBRN. Oper Dent 2010;35(5): 491-499

The September 2010 issue of *Operative Dentistry* features an article entitled "Rubber dam use during routine operative dentistry procedures: findings from The Dental PBRN". The purpose of this study was to determine how commonly the rubber dam is used during operative dentistry procedures and to test the hypothesis that certain dentist, restoration and patient-level factors are associated with its use. A total of 229 DPBRN practitioner-investigators collected data on 9,890 consecutive restorations done in previously unrestored tooth surfaces from 5,810 patients. Most dentists (63%) did not use a rubber dam for any restoration in this study. A rubber dam was used for only 12% of restorations, 83% of which were used in one DPBRN region. With regions accounted for, no other dentist characteristics were significant. A multi-level multiple logistic regression of rubber dam use was done with restoration and patient-level variables modeled simultaneously. In this multi-variable context, these restoration-level characteristics were statistically significant: tooth-arch type, restoration classification and reason for placing the restoration. These patient-level characteristics were statistically significant: ethnicity, dental insurance and age. These results, obtained from actual clinical procedures rather than questionnaires, document a low prevalence of usage of the rubber dam during operative dentistry procedures. Usage varied with certain dentist, restoration and patient-level characteristics.