



Dental Practice-Based Research Network
www.DentalPBRN.org

Each month we highlight a recent DPBRN publication, recent study results, or other important DPBRN information.

Abstract of DPBRN Publication of the Month

Differences in male and female dentists' practice patterns regarding diagnosis and treatment of dental caries: Findings from The Dental Practice-Based Research Network. *JADA* 2011; 142: 429-440.

"Differences in male and female dentists' practice patterns regarding diagnosis and treatment of dental caries: Findings from The Dental Practice-Based Research Network" appeared in the April 2011 issue of the *Journal of the American Dental Association*.

In this study, the authors surveyed DPBRN general dentists who practiced within the United States. The survey included questions about dentists', practices' and patients' characteristics, as well as prevention, assessment and treatment of dental caries. The authors adjusted the statistical models for differences in years since dental school graduation, practice model, full-time versus part-time status, and practice owner or employee status before making conclusions about sex differences.

The results illustrated that three hundred ninety-three male (84%) and 73 female (16%) dentists participated. Female dentists recommended at-home fluoride to a significantly larger number of their patients than did male dentists, whereas male dentists had a preference for using in-office fluoride treatments with pediatric patients. Female dentists also chose to use preventive therapy more often at earlier stages of dental caries. There were few differences between the sexes in terms of diagnostic methods, time spent on or charges for restorative dentistry, and busyness of the practice.

The authors concluded that female DPBRN dentists differ from their male counterparts in some aspects of the prevention, assessment and treatment of dental caries, even with significant covariates taken into account. Practice Implications. The practice patterns of female dentists suggest a treatment philosophy with a greater focus on caries prevention.

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Although there have been articles that have addressed differences in productivity between male and female dentists, little is known about differences between the sexes in practice patterns regarding caries management.

To view the article on the ADA website, go to <http://jada.ada.org/content/142/4/429.long>.

Important NIDCR Information

Communication from NIDCR about practitioner-investigators in The National Dental PBRN

NIDCR asked that we forward this message:

NIDCR is strongly committed to engaging a diverse and an expanded body of dental practitioners in the future National Dental Practice-based Research Network. Please be assured that practitioners currently engaged in NIDCR funded practice-based research will have a vital and essential role in the future National Dental PBRN. NIDCR has provided a link to important information for PBRN practitioners on the NIDCR website. To view this information, please go to <http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/Research/DER/ClinicalResearch/PractitionerQandA.htm>.

Please do not hesitate to contact your PBRN Director or Don DeNucci (denuccid@nidcr.nih.gov) at NIDCR if you have any additional questions pertaining to your role in the National Dental PBRN.