



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.

Dr. Paul Benjamin, DPBRN practitioner-investigator, continues his contributions to evidence-based dentistry by authoring an ADA Critical Summary

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Dr. Paul Benjamin, DPBRN practitioner-investigator from Miami, FL, recently authored an American Dental Association Critical Summary, which appeared in the August 2011 issue of the Journal of American Dental Association. Visit <http://jada.ada.org/content/142/8/957.full?etoc> to read the article in JADA.

He reviewed the scientific contribution of an article entitled "The frequency of pain after endodontic procedures" and authored by Dr. Donald Nixdorf and colleagues at the University of Minnesota. This article served as important background information for DPBRN Studies 17 and 18 entitled "Peri-operative pain and root canal therapy" and "Persistent pain and root canal therapy", for which Dr. Nixdorf serves as Principal Investigator.

The clinical question to be answered was "What is the frequency of persistent all-cause pain that lasts for more than 6 months after endodontic therapy in adults?" The authors identified 26 articles in their meta-analysis and estimated that the frequency was 5.3%. The critical

summary assessment determined that the reviewers used an appropriately designed systematic review and convincingly demonstrated their finding of persistent pain after endodontic therapy. The evidence quality rating was good.

Although he is in full-time private practice of general dentistry, Dr. Benjamin has been an active contributor to DPBRN activities since its inception in 2005. He has served as a practitioner-investigator in almost all of the DPBRN studies; continues to serve as a representative on the DPBRN Executive Committee for the Florida/Georgia region; serves as a member of the DPBRN Publications & Presentations Committee; has been a lead author or co-author on several DPBRN publications; has been a frequent DPBRN presenter; has been a speaker at two ADA Evidence-Based Dentistry Conferences; and with this recent Critical Summary, a formal reviewer of scientific evidence.

One of the keys to DPBRN's tremendous success is that it makes a point of listening to its practitioner-investigators - listening closely and listening often. It makes a point of engaging practitioner-investigators at every step of the research process, from idea generation, to protocol development, to protocol approval, to design of data forms and pilot testing, to interpretation of data, to publications and presentations, to evaluation of the effectiveness of its dissemination activities. Congratulations to Dr. Benjamin for being a leader in his field!