



DPBRN Newsletter

Spring 2011

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Welcome to the Dental PBRN quarterly newsletter! We invite you to see other details at our website, <http://www.DentalPBRN.org>. You can also view the projects for which we are currently recruiting practitioners, as well as suggest and view new research ideas. When you visit our website you can complete your online training course that will provide the foundation for you to begin on a project if you have not already done so.

DPBRN continues to be extraordinarily active and productive, as this edition of the newsletter demonstrates - thanks to all of our practitioner-investigators!

News Items

Dental PBRN Blood Glucose Study #15 Has a Major Impact on a Study Participant

Dr. Gary Lease and his staff from the South Lake Community Health Center Dental Clinic in Groveland, Florida participated recently in the DPBRN Study #15 entitled 'Blood Glucose Testing in Dental Practice'. The Health Center serves four counties and draws patients from four additional counties. The population served is rural, including under-served lower income patients and migrant workers, as well as full-fee patients. Dr. Lease, also a member of the National Network for Oral Health Access (www.NNOHA.org), has participated in several DPBRN studies, and was glad to learn about the study that sought to determine the feasibility of doing random blood glucose screening for dental patients at risk for abnormal readings.

Results from the study were recently presented at the International Association for Dental Research (www.IADR.com) annual meeting in March 2011. Blood glucose screening in dental practice was found to be feasible and was viewed positively by participating clinics and their patients. Additionally, the study had a particularly important impact for one of Dr. Lease's patients. This patient was being seen for a routine prophylaxis appointment and agreed to participate in the study. The initial blood glucose reading was very high (465 mg/dl; normal random value is 80-120 mg/dl) and stayed high when the test was repeated. Dr.

Mission Statement

"To improve oral health by conducting dental practice-based research and by serving dental professionals through education and collegiality".

Lease asked the patient whether he or his family had a history of diabetes, but the patient was unaware of any problem. At that point, the study protocol required Dr. Lease to refer the patient to a physician. Because the dental clinic is associated with a medical clinic, the dental staff immediately called to see if they could have the patient seen by a medical provider. Because of the extremely high reading, the medical clinic advised that the patient should go immediately to the emergency room.

The patient instead reported very soon after the dental visit to a medical clinic. At that time, he was diagnosed with diabetes for the first time and is now under the care of a physician. Although he said he felt fine at the initial study visit, he realized after the diabetes diagnosis that he had been having some health problems. The patient is now on medication for diabetes and he stated that he is being more careful with his diet, both of which have improved his overall health. Today, the patient feels lucky that he participated in the study and said "I am happy I had the testing; if not for the test (study) I would still not know. I had a problem with my eyesight, my eyes hurt, and that is better. I am so glad that I was able to be part of the test and I am very thankful."

The Community Health Center Dental Clinic at South Lake identified a number of patients enrolled in the study with elevated readings who also were unaware of the problem. Dr. Lease sees the "test as a benefit to the overall health of the patient, treating the whole patient, not just their oral condition. A poorly controlled diabetic can be expected to respond differently than a well-controlled one, in terms of healing and tissue response". With the clinic serving a population which seems to have more periodontal disease, Dr. Lease says he is now "more inclined to suggest medical follow-up if a person comes in with severe periodontal disease. I ask if they have a family history or have been tested for diabetes. The blood glucose testing by finger stick is an efficient and easy tool and I hope in the future our profession is able to incorporate it into daily clinical practice".



Dental PBRN Study #14 on Smoking Cessation Yields Results

Researchers with the Dental PBRN study entitled "Hygienists' Internet Tobacco Cessation Study" are helping dental practices make a difference in the lives of their patients. From the time the study began, over 700 dental practices nationwide expressed interest in participating in the study and the enthusiasm has continued. Ultimately, only 100 practices were randomized into the study, a limitation required by the study protocol. Hygienists, dentists, and office staff from 100 dental practices across eight states are actively participating in the study and reporting success with using the study's online tools to educate patients about smoking cessation.

Recently, one practice reported that one of its patients returned for a routine office visit and staff noticed that the patient's demeanor and appearance were different. When asked about it, the patient reported that as a result of participating in the study, he had finally succeeded in quitting smoking. After the hygienist referred the patient to the study's website for tobacco control, the patient, who was a long-time smoker, followed advice provided on the website and took steps to quit. He explained that although he had made earlier attempts to quit, hearing the advice and encouragement at the dental office and receiving advice from the website, was "the straw that broke the camel's back".

Other patients have found similar results after using the site, with comments such as "Thanks for your help. This is the best help I have ever received" and "I appreciate you being here for me because it wasn't easy for me to quit but I'm glad I did. I was just told I'm cancer-free as of Feb 3rd this year."

We congratulate these and other patients, as well as the dental offices participating in the study! DPBRN's mission is "To improve oral health by conducting dental practice-based research and by serving dental professionals and their patients through education and collegiality." For this study, we may not only be improving oral health, but general health as well!



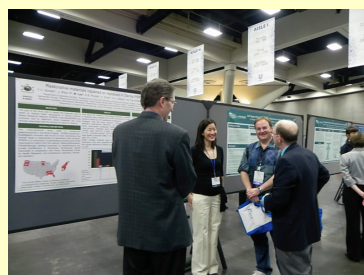
DPBRN is an effort to help dental professionals directly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dental care. Essentially, it is research done about and in the "real world" of daily clinical practice.

DPBRN posters and presentations at AADR meeting in San Diego

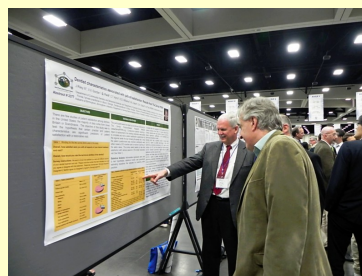
DPBRN was well-represented at the 40th Annual Meeting of the International and American Associations for Dental Research in San Diego, CA March 16-19, 2011. DPBRN had 14 abstracts, given as oral presentations or posters, which garnered a lot of interest in our network. Congratulations to all the presenters for a job well done!



Dr. David Worley (DPBRN practitioner-investigator from the MN region) gave an oral presentation entitled "Reason for repair/replacement of existing restorations in The Dental PBRN".



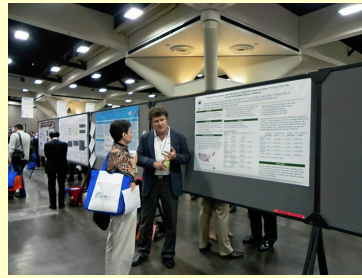
Dr. Melanie Lee (DPBRN practitioner-investigator from the PDA region) discusses her poster entitled "Restorative materials repaired or replaced in Dental PBRN practices".



Dr. Gerald Ford (DPBRN practitioner-investigator from the FL/GA region) discusses his poster entitled "Dentist characteristics associated with patient satisfaction: results from The Dental PBRN".



Ms. Lisa Waiwaiole (Regional Coordinator for the PDA region) gave an oral presentation entitled "Follow-up clinical action for restorations in a Dental-PBRN health plan".



Dr. Andrei Barasch (Principal Investigator for DPBRN study "Blood glucose testing in dental practice") discusses his poster entitled "Plasma glucose values measured in Dental PBRN practices".



Ms. Pia Nørrisgaard (DPBRN Regional Coordinator for the SK region) gave an oral presentation entitled "Diagnosis/treatment of questionable occlusal caries by Danish Dental-PBRN dentists/dental hygienists".

Japan develops a Dental PBRN

In September 2010, Naoki Kakudate, DDS, PhD, MPH, a faculty member at the Graduate School of Medicine and Public Health, Kyoto University, Japan, visited Birmingham, Alabama to learn about the Dental PBRN Network Chair and Coordinating Center groups, and then Portland, Oregon to attend the annual face-to-face meeting of its regional administrative groups.

Using the knowledge he gained from his visits helped him establish "Dental PBRN Japan", for which he serves as Director.

We congratulate Dr. Kakudate on his accomplishments. DPBRN and Dental PBRN Japan hope to collaborate on certain projects in the future.





Some have referred to much of dental research conducted to date as "scientifically valid, statistically significant, but clinically useless". We would like to change that.

Testimonial



James A. Smith, Jr., DMD
Full-time private practice in Endodontics
Birmingham, Alabama

My staff and I participated in DPBRN studies "Perioperative Pain and Root Canal Therapy" and the "Persistent Pain and Root Canal Therapy". This was our first time to be involved with a clinical study and the experience was a very good one. Most of the patients who were asked to participate were very willing and seemed to take ownership in the fact that they were contributing to clinical knowledge that will help others. We hope to be involved with future DPBRN projects.

Contact Us

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Minnesota: Emily Durand RDH, RF or Heather Weidner at HealthPartners.

Scandinavia: Pia Nørrisgaard RDH or Lene Fabricius-Bekker RDH.