

**Dental Practice-Based Research Network**  
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## **Assessment of Caries Diagnosis and Caries Treatment**



Completion Date   /   / 20    
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**SECTION 1: Questions 1- 8 have to do with methods that you may or may not use to diagnose dental caries. Please circle the one number that best corresponds to your answer.**

1. When you examine patients to determine if they have a caries lesion on a **proximal** (mesial or distal) surface, on what percent of these patients do you use **radiographs** to help diagnose the lesion?
  - 1 – Never or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – Every time or 100%
  
2. When you examine patients to determine if they have a caries lesion on the **occlusal** surface, on what percent of these patients do you use **radiographs** to help diagnose the lesion?
  - 1 – Never or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – Every time or 100%
  
3. When you examine patients to determine if they have a **primary occlusal caries** lesion, on what percent of these patients do you use a **dental explorer** to diagnose the lesion?
  - 1 – Never or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – Every time or 100%
  
4. When you examine patients to determine if they have a **caries** lesion **adjacent to an existing restoration** (recurrent/secondary caries) on what percent of these patients do you use a **dental explorer** to diagnose the lesion?
  - 1 – Never or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – Every time or 100%
  
5. When you examine patients to determine if they have a **primary caries** lesion on the **occlusal** surface, on what percent of these patients do you use **laser fluorescence** (for example, Diagnodent®)?
  - 1 – Never or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – Every time or 100%



6. When you examine patients to determine if they have a **primary caries** lesion, on what percent of these patients do you use **air-drying** to diagnose the lesion?

- 1 – Never or 0% [**Skip to question 7**]
- 2 – 1 to 24%
- 3 – 25 to 49%
- 4 – 50 to 74%
- 5 – 75 to 99%
- 6 – Every time or 100%

6b. Approximately how long do you dry the tooth surface?

- 1 – 1-2 seconds
- 2 – 3-4 seconds
- 3 – 5 seconds
- 4 – More than 5 seconds

7. When you examine patients to determine if they have a **caries** lesion on a **proximal** (mesial or distal) surface of an anterior tooth, on what percent of these patients do you use a special device for **fiber optic** transillumination to diagnose the lesion?

- 1 – Never or 0%
- 2 – 1 to 24%
- 3 – 25 to 49%
- 4 – 50 to 74%
- 5 – 75 to 99%
- 6 – Every time or 100%

8. When you examine patients to determine if they have a **caries** lesion, on what percent of these patients do you use some sort of **magnification** to diagnose the lesion?

- 1 – Never or 0%
- 2 – 1 to 24%
- 3 – 25 to 49%
- 4 – 50 to 74%
- 5 – 75 to 99%
- 6 – Every time or 100%

**SECTION 2: Questions 9-22 have to do with methods that you may or may not use to prevent or treat dental caries. Please circle the one number that best corresponds to your answer.**

**The first 6 questions refer to patients 6 to 18 years, please skip to question 15 if you do not see any patients 6-18 years old:**

9. Of patients **6 to 18 years old**, for what percent do you apply **dental sealants** on the occlusal surfaces of their permanent teeth?

- 1 – Never or 0%
- 2 – 1 to 24%
- 3 – 25 to 49%
- 4 – 50 to 74%
- 5 – 75 to 99%
- 6 – Every time or 100%

10. Of patients **6 to 18 years old**, for what percent do you apply an **in-office fluoride application**, such as fluoride gel, fluoride varnish, or fluoride rinse?

- 1 – None or 0%
- 2 – 1 to 24%
- 3 – 25 to 49%
- 4 – 50 to 74%
- 5 – 75 to 99%
- 6 – All or 100%



11. Of patients **6 to 18 years old**, for what percent do you recommend a **non-prescription (over-the-counter) fluoride rinse**?
- 1 – None or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – All or 100%
12. Of patients **6 to 18 years old**, for what percent do you provide a **prescription for fluoride**?
- 1 – None or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – All or 100%
13. Of patients **6 to 18 years old**, for what percent do you recommend a **chlorhexidine rinse**?
- 1 – None or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – All or 100%
14. Of patients **6 to 18 years old**, for what percent do you recommend a **sugarless chewing gum or xylitol chewing gum**?
- 1 – None or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – All or 100%

**The next 6 questions refer to patients who are more than 18 years old, please skip to question 21 if you do not see any patients who are more than 18 years old:**

15. Of patients **more than 18 years old** with at least one posterior tooth, for what percent do you apply **dental sealants** on the occlusal surfaces of their teeth?
- 1 – None or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – All or 100%



16. Of patients **more than 18 years old** with at least one tooth, for what percent do you apply an **in-office fluoride application**, such as fluoride gel, fluoride varnish, or fluoride rinse?
- 1 – None or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – All or 100%
17. Of patients **more than 18 years old** with at least one tooth, for what percent do you recommend a **non-prescription (over-the-counter) fluoride rinse**?
- 1 – None or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – All or 100%
18. Of patients **more than 18 years old** with at least one tooth, for what percent do you provide a **prescription for fluoride**?
- 1 – None or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – All or 100%
19. Of patients **more than 18 years old** with at least one tooth, for what percent do you recommend a **chlorhexidine rinse**?
- 1 – None or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – All or 100%
20. Of patients **more than 18 years old** with at least one tooth, for what percent do you recommend a **sugarless chewing gum or xylitol chewing gum**?
- 1 – None or 0%
  - 2 – 1 to 24%
  - 3 – 25 to 49%
  - 4 – 50 to 74%
  - 5 – 75 to 99%
  - 6 – All or 100%



21. Do you assess caries risk for individual patients in any way?

- 1 – Yes
- 2 – No [Skip to question 22]

21b. Do you use a special form for caries risk assessment?

**SECTION 3: For questions 22-26, we are interested in what you believe are the most important factors when you design a treatment plan. Please circle the number which best corresponds to your answer.**

22. For patients **6 to 18 years old**, how important is each of the factors below when you decide on a treatment plan? Please circle the letter “o” at the bottom of the list if you do not see patients 6-18 years old

	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
a. Patient has an active caries lesion	1	2	3	4	5
b. Patient has had caries recently	1	2	3	4	5
c. Caries experience of the parents	1	2	3	4	5
d. Patient has several large restorations	1	2	3	4	5
e. Current oral hygiene	1	2	3	4	5
f. Presence of dental appliances	1	2	3	4	5
g. Access to fluorides	1	2	3	4	5
h. Diet	1	2	3	4	5
i. Decreased salivary function	1	2	3	4	5
j. Your own subjective assessment about the patient	1	2	3	4	5
k. Patient’s (or guardian’s) understanding of caries progression	1	2	3	4	5
l. Patient’s (or guardian’s) commitment to return for follow-up	1	2	3	4	5
m. Patient’s age	1	2	3	4	5
n. Patient’s socio-economic status	1	2	3	4	5
o. Not applicable – I do not see any patients 6-18 years old					



23. For patients **more than 18 years old**, how important is each of the factors below when you decide on a treatment plan? Please circle the letter “n” at the bottom of the list if you do not see patients more than 18 years old

	<b>Not at all important</b>	<b>Slightly important</b>	<b>Moderately important</b>	<b>Very important</b>	<b>Extremely important</b>
a. Patient has an active caries lesion	1	2	3	4	5
b. Patient has had caries recently	1	2	3	4	5
c. Patient has several large restorations	1	2	3	4	5
d. Current oral hygiene	1	2	3	4	5
e. Presence of dental appliances	1	2	3	4	5
f. Access to fluorides	1	2	3	4	5
g. Diet	1	2	3	4	5
h. Decreased salivary function	1	2	3	4	5
i. Your own subjective assessment about the patient	1	2	3	4	5
j. Patient’s understanding of caries progression	1	2	3	4	5
k. Patient’s commitment to return for follow-up	1	2	3	4	5
l. Patient’s age	1	2	3	4	5
m. Patient’s socio-economic status	1	2	3	4	5
n. Not applicable – I do not see patients >18 y					

24. What percent of patients in your practice are interested enough in caries prevention to justify you recommending to them an individualized caries preventive regimen?

- 1 – None or 0%
- 2 – 1 to 24%
- 3 – 25 to 49%
- 4 – 50 to 74%
- 5 – 75 to 99%
- 6 – All or 100%

25. For what percent of patients do you give individualized preventive treatment specifically for their needs?

- 1 – None or 0%
- 2 – 1 to 24%
- 3 – 25 to 49%
- 4 – 50 to 74%
- 5 – 75 to 99%
- 6 – All or 100%

26. How strongly do you agree with this statement: "A dentist's assessment of caries risk for an individual patient can predict whether or not that patient develops new caries in the future"?

- 1 – Strongly disagree
- 2 – Somewhat disagree
- 3 – Neither agree nor disagree
- 4 – Somewhat agree
- 5 – Strongly agree



**SECTION 4: Please use the following guide for the treatment codes used in questions 27-29. For each question, circle the letters which correspond to the treatment codes you would choose for scenarios described. If treatment code “j” (other) is used, please specify. You may circle more than one treatment code per question.**

	Question 27	Question 28	Question 29
a. No treatment today, follow the patient regularly	<b>a</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>a</b>
b. Instruct patient in plaque removal for the affected area	<b>b</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>b</b>
c. In-office fluoride	<b>c</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>c</b>
d. Prescription for fluoride	<b>d</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>d</b>
e. Recommend non-prescription fluoride	<b>e</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>e</b>
f. Use sealant or unfilled resin over tooth	<b>f</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>f</b>
g. Chlorhexidine treatment	<b>g</b>	<b>g</b>	<b>g</b>
h. Polish, re-surface, or repair restoration, but not replace	<b>h</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>h</b>
i. Replace entire restoration	<b>i</b>	<b>i</b>	<b>i</b>
j. Other treatment [please specify] _____	<b>j</b>	<b>j</b>	<b>j</b>



27. Imagine that the patient is a 30-year old female with no relevant medical history. She has no complaints and is in your office today for a routine visit. She has been attending your practice once every two years on a regular basis for the past 6 years. She has 5 existing restorations, and is not missing any teeth. Indicate what treatment you would provide to the restoration shown by the arrow in the first picture on the left. Please circle your answers above.



28. Now imagine the patient has no other dental restorations or dental caries and is not missing any teeth. Indicate what treatment you would provide to the restoration in the second picture on the left. Please circle your answers above.



29. Continue to imagine the patient has no other dental restorations or dental caries and is not missing any teeth. Indicate what treatment you would provide to the restoration in the third picture on the left Please circle your answers above.



**SECTION 5: Please use the following guide for the treatment codes used in questions 30-32. For each question, circle the letters which correspond to the treatment codes you would recommend for each of the five cases. If treatment code “n” (other) is used, please specify. You may circle more than one treatment code per case.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a. No treatment today, follow the patient regularly | h. Minimal drilling and preventive resin restoration |
| b. In-office fluoride                               | i. Air abrasion and a sealant                        |
| c. Recommend non-prescription fluoride              | j. Air abrasion and preventive resin restoration     |
| d. Prescription for fluoride                        | k. Amalgam restoration                               |
| e. Use sealant or unfilled resin over tooth         | l. Composite restoration                             |
| f. Chlorhexidine treatment                          | o. Indirect restoration                              |
| g. Minimal drilling and sealant                     | n. Other treatment [Please specify] _____            |

30. Suppose the patient is a 30 year old female with no relevant medical history. She has no complaints and is in your office today for a routine visit. She has been attending your practice once every two years on a regular basis for the past 6 years, and has no other dental restorations or dental caries and is not missing any teeth.



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- |               |               |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Case 1        | Case 2        | Case 3        | Case 4        | Case 5        |
| a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g |
| h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n |

31. Now suppose the patient has 12 teeth with existing dental restorations, heavy plaque and calculus, multiple Class V white spot lesions, and is missing five teeth.

- |               |               |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Case 1        | Case 2        | Case 3        | Case 4        | Case 5        |
| a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g |
| h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n |

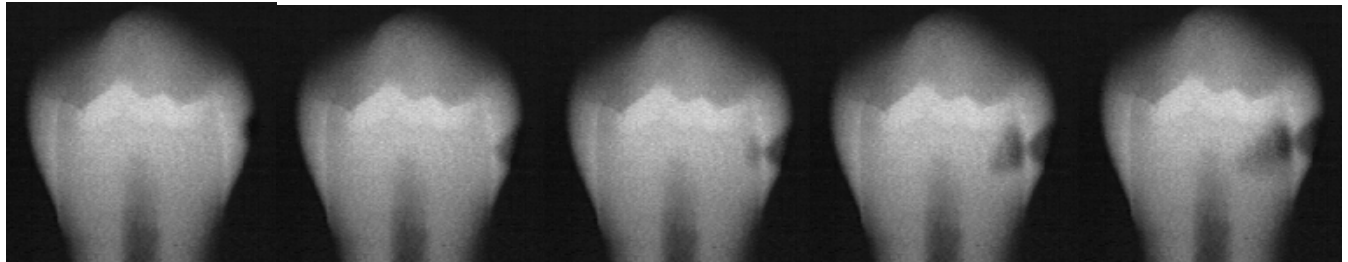
32. Now suppose the patient is a 12-year old child with no relevant medical history. The patient is in your office today for the first time for a routine visit. She has 5 restorations and moderate plaque. A rubber dam cannot be used.

- |               |               |               |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Case 1        | Case 2        | Case 3        | Case 4        | Case 5        |
| a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g | a b c d e f g |
| h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n | h i j k l m n |



**SECTION 6: For questions 33 & 34, please circle the one number that corresponds to the lesion depth at which you think it is best to do a permanent restoration (composite, amalgam, etc.) instead of only doing preventive therapy?**

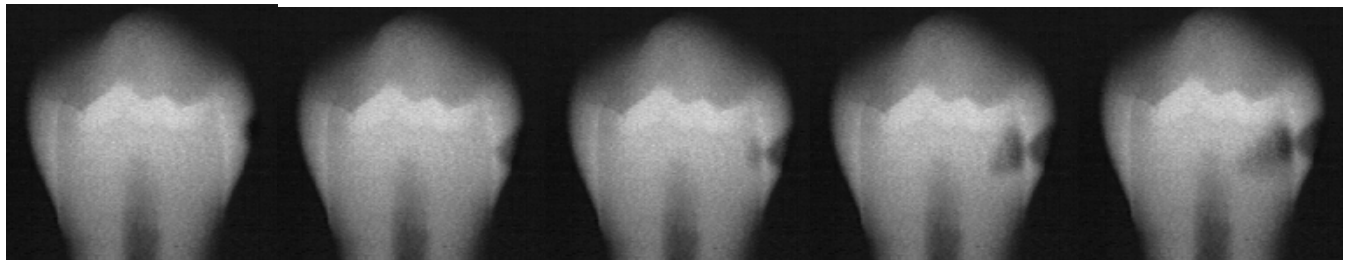
33. Suppose the patient is a 30-year old female with no relevant medical history. She has no complaints and is in your office today for a routine visit. She has been attending your practice once every two years on a regular basis for the past 6 years. She has no dental restorations, no dental caries, and is not missing any teeth.



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1                      2                      3                      4                      5

34. Now suppose the patient has 12 teeth with existing dental restorations, heavy plaque and calculus, multiple Class V white spot lesions, and is not missing any teeth. At what lesion depth do you think it would be best to do a permanent restoration instead of only doing preventive therapy?



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1                      2                      3                      4                      5