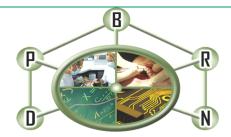# DPBRN Monthly E-Update   October 2011

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

Dentists' use of caries risk assessment and individualized caries prevention for their adult patients: findings from The Dental Practice-Based Research Network. *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol;* 2011

"Dentists' use of caries risk assessment and individualized caries prevention for their adult patients: findings from The Dental Practice-Based Research Network" will be featured in the upcoming issue of Community Dentistry Oral Epidemiology.

There have been few studies to examine dentists' subjective ratings of importance of caries risk factors or tested whether dentists use this information in treatment planning. This study tested several hypotheses related to caries risk assessment (CRA) and individualized caries prevention (ICP). They accomplished this by collecting data using a questionnaire entitled 'Assessment of Caries Diagnosis and Caries Treatment', completed by 547 DPBRN practitioners.

The results showed that 69% of DPBRN dentists perform CRA on their patients. Recently graduated dentists, dentists with busier practices, and those who believe a dentist can predict future caries were the most likely to use CRA. The association between CRA and ICP was weaker than expected (r=0.21). Dentists who perform CRA provide ICP to 57% of their patients, compared with 42% for dentists who do not perform CRA. Based on their responses to radiographic and clinical scenarios in the questionnaire, dentists who use CRA appear to use this information in restorative decisions.

The results showed that a substantial percentage of DPBRN dentists do not perform CRA, and there is not a strong linkage between its use and use of individualized preventive regimens for adult patients. More progress in the implementation of current scientific evidence in this area is warranted.

Please visit http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21726268 to view the PubMed abstract.

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