

Quick Poll Results—Do you have a protocol for dental erosion prevention and care?

Many dentists often see patients with dental erosion but don't have protocols in place for diagnosing, treating, or preventing the condition, our July 2015 Quick Poll found. Of our 637 respondents, more than 40 percent didn't have a protocol.

Almost all of our respondents had seen a patient with dental erosion and just over half see a patient with dental erosion every month.

Dental erosion is irreversible loss of tooth structure caused by factors other than bacteria, such as diet, medications, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), regurgitation, or eating disorders. Older men who have GERD or an acidic diet are the most likely patients to have dental erosion, based on the results of our quick poll.

Not enough dentists are talking with their patients about how diet affects dental erosion. Only 32 percent of our respondents said they discuss diet with patients who already have dental erosion.

Almost all of the dentists knew the signs of dental erosion: cupping in cusp tips, loss of enamel features, and restorations appearing higher than the level of the tooth.

