

August 2013

Each month we highlight a recent publication, recent study results, or other important information from the nation's network.

National Dental PBRN Article of the Month

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Agreement among dentists' restorative treatment planning thresholds for primary occlusal caries, primary approximal caries, and existing restorations: Findings from The National Dental Practice-Based Research Network

The *Journal of Dentistry* features an article entitled "Agreement among dentists' restorative treatment planning thresholds for primary occlusal caries, primary approximal caries, and existing restorations: Findings from The National Dental Practice-Based Research Network".

In this publication, the authors quantified the agreement among individual network dentists' self-reported treatment decisions for primary occlusal caries, primary proximal caries, and existing restorations.

They did this by presenting five hypothetical clinical scenarios: primary occlusal caries; primary proximal caries; and whether three existing restorations should be repaired or replaced. The authors then quantified the probability that dentists who recommended later restorative intervention for primary caries were the same ones who recommended that existing restorations be repaired instead of replaced.

The results indicated that dentists who recommended later restorative treatment of primary occlusal caries and proximal caries at a more-

advanced stage were significantly more likely to recommend repair instead of replacement. Agreement among dentists on a threshold stage for the treatment of primary caries ranged from 40 to 68%, while that for repair or replacement of existing restorations was 36 to 43%.

The authors concluded that dentists who recommended repair rather than replacement of existing restorations were significantly more likely to recommend later treatment of primary caries. Conversely, dentists who recommended treatment of primary caries at an earlier stage were significantly more likely to recommend replacement of the entire restoration. Between-dentist agreement for primary caries treatment was better than between-dentist agreement for repair or replacement of existing restorations.

These findings suggest consistency in how individual dentists approach the treatment of primary caries and existing restorations. However, substantial variation was found between dentists in their treatment decisions about the same teeth.

Click [here](#) to view the PubMed abstract.

ADA Advanced Evidence-Based Dentistry Workshop

To be held in Chicago October 21-25, this five-day intensive course covers evidence-based dentistry (EBD). The course is relevant to all dentists and members of the dental team, educators, researchers including practitioners involved in practice-based research networks (PBRNs) and other professionals involved in dentistry. ADA members receive a \$500 discount on course costs. The course was formerly named the ADA/Forsyth Course. Learn more about the course and download the application [online](#). The application deadline is September 15. Attendees will receive continuing education credit.