



# MONTHLY E-UPDATE

July 2012

**Enroll Now!**

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

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## The National Dental PBRN is now enrolling practitioners

The National Dental PBRN is now enrolling practitioners. You can enroll online by clicking [here](#), and following directions from there. You need to have a functioning email address to enroll. If you previously participated in another network such as the DentalPBRN, PEARL or PRECEDENT, you will need to re-enroll due to revised enrollment questions, the need to update information, and the opportunity to submit ideas for research studies. For more information on the nation's network, click [here](#).

## National Dental PBRN Article of the Month

### Differences between reported and actual restored caries lesion depths: results from The Dental PBRN

The March 2012 issue of Journal of Dentistry features an article entitled "Differences between reported and actual restored caries lesions depths: results from the Dental PBRN".

The objectives of this study were to: (1) quantify the discordance between the caries lesion depth at which dentists restored initial lesions during a clinical study ("actual depth") and the lesion depth that they reported during a hypothetical clinical scenario ("reported depth") and; (2) test the hypothesis that certain practitioner, practice, patient, and caries lesion characteristics are significantly associated with this discordance.

Practitioner-investigators from the network who perform restorative dentistry in their practices completed an enrollment questionnaire and participated in two consecutive studies on caries diagnosis and treatment. The first study was a survey asking about caries treatment. The second study collected data on restorations placed in routine clinical practice due to caries in patients over 19 years of age on occlusal surfaces only or proximal surfaces only.

The authors found that discordance between actual depth and reported depth occurred in only about 2% of the restorations done due to proximal caries, but about 49% of the restorations done due to occlusal caries. Practice type, restorative material used and the diagnostic methods used were significantly associated with discordance.

The authors concluded that dentists frequently restored occlusal caries at a shallower depth as compared to their reported depth, but the discordance was very small for proximal lesions. Discordance for occlusal caries was more common when radiographs were not taken or if a resin restoration was placed.

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

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