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November 2012

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

Random plasma glucose values measured in community dental practices

The August 2012 issue of *Clinical Oral Investigations* featured an article from The National Dental PBRN entitled "Random plasma glucose values measured in community dental practices".

The study aims were to examine feasibility of testing and frequency of abnormal plasma glucose among dental patients in the network. Practitioner-investigators recorded plasma glucose levels on dental patients who were at least 19 years old and had at least one American Diabetes Association-defined risk factor for diabetes mellitus or an existing diagnosis of diabetes or pre-diabetes. Random (fasting not required) plasma glucose was measured in standardized fashion using an over-the-counter glucometer. Readings <70 or >300 mg/dl triggered re-testing. Patients with glucose of at least 126 mg/dl were referred for medical follow-up.

Of 498 subjects in 28 dental practices, 491 consented and 418 qualified for testing. Fifty-one patients had diabetes; 24 had pre-diabetes. Glucose ranged from 50 to 465 mg/dl. One hundred twenty-nine subjects had readings outside the normal range; of these, 28 had readings <80 mg/dl and 101 had readings of at least 126 mg/dl; in nine patients (seven with diabetes), glucose was >200 mg/dl.

The authors concluded that a significant proportion of patients tested had abnormal blood glucose. Routine glucose testing in dental practice of populations at risk or diagnosed with diabetes may be beneficial and community dental practices hold promise as settings for diabetes and pre-diabetes screening and monitoring.

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

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](#).

If you have completed the Enrollment Questionnaire, thank you for joining the nation's network! If you feel any of your colleagues may be also interested in joining the network, please invite them to join by visiting NationalDentalPBRN.org and clicking on the "Enroll Now" tab.

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