

March 2013

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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

Rubber Dam Use During Root Canal Treatment: Findings from The National Dental PBRN

The February 2013 issue of the *Journal of the American Dental Association* featured an article entitled "Rubber Dam Use During Root Canal Treatment: Findings from The National Dental PBRN".

In this publication, the authors conducted a study to quantify rubber dam use during root canal treatment (RCT) among general dentists and to test the hypothesis that certain dentist or practice characteristics were associated with rubber dam use.

The authors sent a questionnaire to members of the network that included items about rubber dam use and other forms of isolation during RCT. Network enrollment questionnaire data provided information regarding practitioner and practice characteristics.

A total of 729 of 991 practitioners responded; 524 were general dentists who reported providing at least some RCTs and reported the percentage of RCTs for which they used a rubber dam. Of these 524 practitioners, 44 percent used a rubber dam for all RCTs, 24 percent used it for 51 to 99 percent of RCTs, 17 percent used it for 1 to 50 percent of RCTs, and 15 percent never used it during RCT. Usage varied significantly by geographic region and practice type. The use of cotton rolls and other forms of isolation also was reported.

The authors concluded that similar to other reports in the literature, not all network general dentists used a rubber dam during RCT.

Click [here](#) to view the article on the JADA web site. Click [here](#) to view the PubMed abstract.