

## May 2013

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

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### National Dental PBRN Article of the Month

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### **Caries treatment in a dental practice-based research network: movement toward stated evidence-based treatment**

The April 2013 issue of *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology* featured an article entitled "Caries treatment in a dental practice-based research network: movement toward stated evidence-based treatment".

In this publication, the authors tested the hypothesis that a higher level of participation in a dental PBRN is associated with greater stated change toward evidence-based practice. They did this by sending a baseline questionnaire entitled 'Assessment of Caries Diagnosis and Treatment' to members of the nation's network and was completed by 565 practitioners. A total of 405 of these also completed a follow-up questionnaire about treatment of caries and existing restorations. Certain questions (six treatment scenarios) were repeated 36.0 months later. A total of 224 were 'full participants' (enrolled in clinical studies and attended at least one network meeting); and 181 were 'partial participants' (did not meet 'full' criteria).

The results from the questionnaire indicated that 10% to 62% of practitioners were 'surgically invasive' at baseline, depending on the clinical scenario. Stated treatment approach was significantly less invasive at follow-up for four of six items. The authors noted that change was greater among full participants and those with a more-

invasive approach at baseline, with an overall pattern of movement away from the extremes.

These results are consistent with a preliminary conclusion that network participation fostered movement of scientific evidence into routine practice. PBRNs may foster movement of evidence into everyday practice as practitioners become engaged in the scientific process.

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

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