

Quick Poll on Clear Aligners

Clear aligner therapy to address malocclusions has gained tremendous popularity among both patients and dentists in the last decade. The network conducted a Quick Poll on the usage patterns of clear aligner therapy by practitioners to understand the adoption and utility of this technology.

A total of 404 practitioners responded to the Quick Poll. These included: 187 general dentists, 180 orthodontists, 7 pediatric dentists, 4 endodontists, and 4 periodontists. Other respondents included dental hygienists, public health dentists, oral surgeons, prosthodontists, etc. Out of the 404 respondents, 273 (67%) mentioned that they used clear aligners in their practices.

260 respondents provided information on number of patients they treat each year with clear aligners (Figure 1). 25% of respondents mentioned that they treated 10 to 25 patients annually with clear aligners, 24% treated less than 10 patients and 16% treated more than 100 patients.

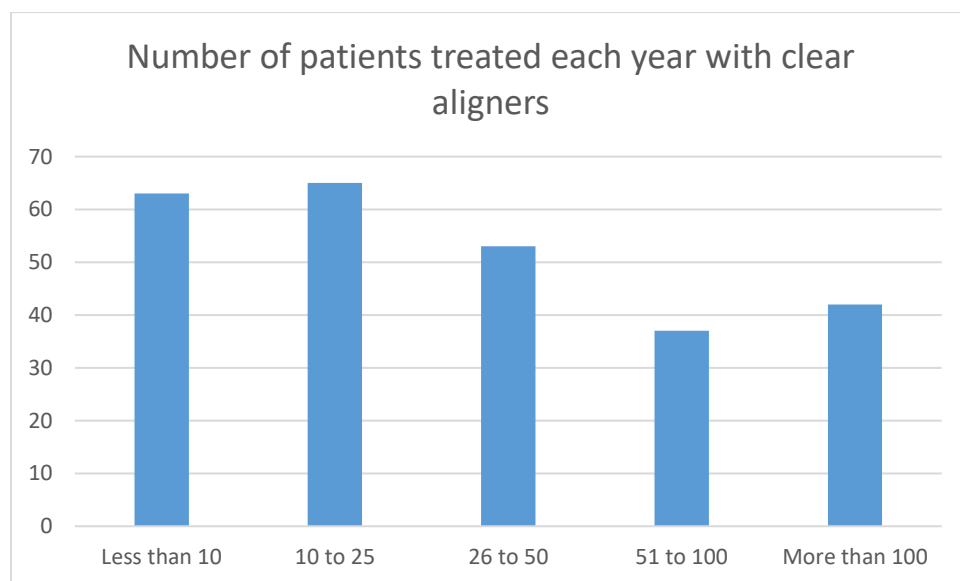


Figure 1. Number of patients treated with clear aligners annually in practices

259 practitioners responded to the question on clear aligner fabrication (Figure 2). A vast majority of the respondents (77%) got the clear aligners fabricated at a commercial laboratory.

Only 3% of respondents fabricated the aligners “in-house” (within their practice). 15% of respondents fabricated more than 75% of aligners at a commercial laboratory and fabricated less than 25% of clear aligners “in-house”.

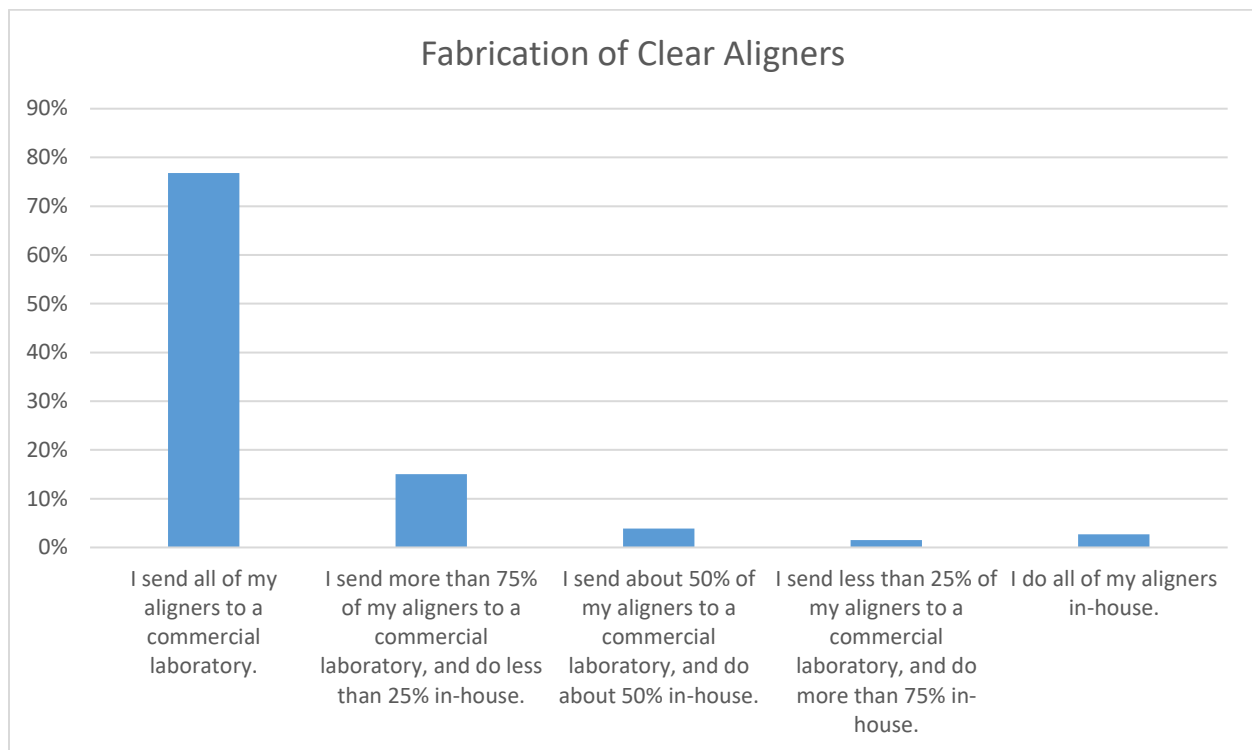


Figure 2. Fabrication of clear aligners

258 practitioners responded to the question on types of cases treated with clear aligners. 29% treated only mild cases, such as anterior alignment and minor space closure, with clear aligners. 46% treated both mild and moderate cases (such as deep bites, open bites and crossbites). 25% treated mild moderate and severe cases (such as extraction cases, anterior-posterior corrections and orthognathic surgeries) with clear aligners.

The Quick Poll conducted by the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network provided an overview of the usage patterns (number of cases, methods of fabrication of clear aligners, and types of cases typically treated by practitioners) of clear aligners by practitioners.