



## **Pulpotomy as a definitive treatment for permanent teeth: Debunking myths in the management of deep dental caries**

The National Dental PBRN is planning this groundbreaking study investigating **full pulpotomy** as a viable alternative for permanent teeth with deep dental caries with pulp exposure, vital pulp and normal apical tissues. The pulpotomy study will do a pilot study to develop a randomized controlled trial comparing pulpotomy with root canal therapy for permanent molars.

**Do you encounter patients with deep dental caries and wish there was a simpler, less invasive option than root canal treatment?**

- **Current guidelines** from the American Association of Endodontists recommend full pulpotomy for specific cases, but its **practice adoption remains limited in the US**.
- We need **stronger evidence** to guide dentists and improve patient care.
- This study will explore the **feasibility and acceptability** of full pulpotomy in US dental settings.

### **Study Details:**

- **Shape the future:** Based on your input, we'll develop a comprehensive **pulpotomy intervention** including:
  - **Clinical protocol** tailored for US use.
  - **Theory-informed training materials** to increase dentist and patient confidence.
- **Testing the waters:** We'll assess the feasibility of a larger study by:
  - Estimating the number of eligible patients.
  - Evaluating whether the intervention and study procedures are accepted by dentists and patients.
  - Fine-tuning the protocol for optimal delivery in dental practices.

### **Potential benefits for practitioners and their patients:**

- **Contribute to groundbreaking research:** Help shape the future of dental care for patients with deep caries.
- **Stay ahead of the curve:** Gain early access to the latest pulpotomy techniques and training.
- **Enhance your knowledge and skills:** Improve your confidence in managing pulpitis cases.
- **Preserve natural tooth:** Patients may avoid the potential discomfort and expense of root canal treatment or extraction.



Group Participant: Your role is to actively engage in the discussion, share your insights, and respect others' perspectives. Your active participation and constructive feedback are important.

Group facilitator: Introduce yourself and facilitate a discussion of the study and implications to practice. Promote a space where all practitioners voice their opinion. Call on people directly, particularly if one person is dominating the conversation.

Group recorder: Please record a summary of the group's discussion on the form provided and, in conjunction with the practitioner group leader, be prepared to summarize your group's findings.

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1. Based on your understanding, what specific factors currently limit the widespread adoption of full pulpotomy as a permanent treatment in the US?
2. How comfortable are you, on a scale from 1-5 (with 1 being not comfortable at all and 5 being very comfortable), performing full pulpotomy procedures on permanent molars using tricalcium silicates?
3. Are there any specific steps or considerations within the procedure that you find will require further clarification?
4. What format of training would you find most beneficial? (e.g., hands-on workshops, online modules, video tutorials, written materials, etc.)
5. Considering your practice workflow and patient demographics, do you foresee any challenges in successfully implementing the pulpotomy intervention in your setting?

For digital resources and references, visit [www.nationaldentalpbrn.org/meetingresources2024/](http://www.nationaldentalpbrn.org/meetingresources2024/) by scanning the QR code below.

