



Dental Practice-Based Research Network
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DPBRN 18: Peri-operative Tooth and Root Canal Therapy

Results: Overall and by Region

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Table 1: Practitioners and patients by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Practitioners	10	16.1	14	22.6	26	41.9	5	8.1	7	11.3	62	100.0
Patients												
3 month	90	14.1	127	19.8	337	52.7	34	5.3	52	8.1	640	100.0
6 month	83	12.8	127	19.5	354	54.4	35	5.4	52	8.0	651	100.0

The report is based on 640 patients (90.4% of 708) from 62 practitioners who completed a 3 month follow-up of DPBRN Study 17 (Peri-operative Tooth and Root Canal Therapy Study), and 651 (91.9%) who completed a 6 month follow-up of the study.

Unless otherwise stated, totals that do not sum to 640 for the 3 month follow-up or to 651 for the 6 month follow-up are due to missing data.

3. Has your tooth pain been present at least 8 hours a day, 15 days or more a month over the last 3 or more months?
- Yes
 - No (If **No**, skip to question #5):

Table Q3: Pain present at least 8 hours per day by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Has your tooth pain been present at least 8 hours a day, 15 days or more a month over the last 3 or more months?												
Yes	2	2.3	5	4.0	20	6.1	1	2.9	0	0.0	28	4.5
No	87	97.8	121	96.0	307	93.9	33	97.1	52	100.0	600	95.5

- About 5% of responding patients reported continued pain during the 3 months following completion of obturation; none from SK reported having continued pain.

4. How many days ago did it go away?* (Not included in the summary report)

- Pain is still present.
- Pain disappeared. Last pain was days ago.

5. In the last 3 months, which of the following treatments have you sought to manage pain associated with your tooth that received root canal therapy? **(Mark all that apply and indicate the number of treatments in the last 3 months.)**

A. Additional dental treatment(s):

- Additional root canal treatment(s): How many appointments?
- Extraction of the tooth (tooth was removed)
- Additional x-rays: How many appointments?

B. Medication(s) or supplement(s):

- Pain medication (prescription or over the counter)
- Antibiotics
- Herbal/botanical

C. **Appointment(s) with a medical doctor:** How many appointments?

D. Alternative, complementary, or non-traditional health therapies:

- Chiropractic care: How many appointments?
- Acupuncture or acupressure: How many appointments?
- Other: (please list) _____

E. **None of the above.**

Table Q5: Methods of pain management by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
In the last 3 months, which of the following treatments have you sought to manage pain associated with your tooth that received root canal therapy?												
Additional dental tx												
Additional root canal tx	0	0.0	2	1.6	13	3.6	3	8.6	5	9.6	23	3.4
Tooth extraction	1	1.0	0	0.0	7	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	1.2
Additional x-rays	0	0.0	3	2.3	15	4.1	0	0.0	3	5.8	21	3.1
Medications/Supplements												
Pain Medication	1	1.0	5	3.9	56	15.3	7	20.0	1	1.9	70	10.3
Antibiotics	0	0.0	5	3.9	15	4.1	0	0.0	1	1.9	21	3.1
Herbal/botanical	0	0.0	1	0.8	4	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.7
Appt w/ medical doctor	0	0.0	2	1.6	11	3.3	1	2.9	0	0.0	14	2.2
Alternative												
Chiropractic tx	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	0.9
Acupuncture	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.4
Other	2	2.0	1	0.8	9	2.7	2	5.7	0	0.0	14	2.2
None of the above	87	96.7	112	88.2	264	78.6	24	70.6	39	75.0	526	82.3

- Of the various modalities to manage pain, use of pain medication was most common, reported by 10% of patients; ranged from lows of 1%-4% (in AL/MS, SK, FL/GA) to highs of 15-20% (MN and PDA).
- 82% of responding patients had NOT used any type of medication, regular or alternative treatment modalities to manage pain associated with receipt of root canal therapy; ranged from about 71% (PDA) to 97% (AL/MS).

Patient Survey — 6 Months After Treatment

1. How many days in the past month have you had pain in the area that was treated with a root canal?

Days (If no pain, please write "0/0")

Table Q1: Number of days pain was present in last month by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
How many days in the past month have you had pain in the area that was treated with a root canal?												
>=1	4	4.8	7	5.5	43	12.2	6	17.1	12	23.1	72	11.1
ZERO	79	95.2	120	94.5	311	87.8	29	82.9	40	76.9	579	88.9
Among >=1												
Mean	3.2		7.0		8.2		10.3		15.6		9.2	
(SD)	2.5		10.6		8.7		11.1		11.6		9.7	

- Six months after obturation was completed, 11% of patients reported having pain at least one day in the prior [6th] month. This varied considerably across region, from around 5% (AL/MS, FL/GA) to 23% (SK).
- Among the 11% reporting pain on any day in prior month, the average number of days had pain was 9.2; this also differed by region, from 3.2 (AL/MS) to 15.6 (SK).

2. Have you taken anything for the pain (over-the-counter or prescription medication, herbal, other) in the last 1 month?

- a. Yes
b. No

Table Q2: Taken pain medication by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Have you taken anything for the pain in the last 1 month?												
Yes	2	2.4	3	2.4	25	7.2	4	12.1	3	5.8	37	5.8
No	80	97.6	124	97.6	324	92.8	29	87.9	49	94.2	606	94.3

*Note: 3 patients who reported zero days having pain in past month, took something for pain in prior month.

- Approximately 6% of patients overall were still taking pain medication 6 months after treatment; ranged from 2% (AL/MS, FL/GA) to 12% (PDA).

IF PAIN WAS NOT PRESENT IN THE PAST ONE MONTH, SKIP TO QUESTION #12

Questions 3 – 11 below based on 75 patients: 72 who reported pain at least one day and additional 3 who did not report pain but were taking something for pain

3. How would you rate your tooth pain on a 0 to 10 scale at the present time, that is right now, where 0 is "no pain" and 10 is "pain as bad as could be"?

No Pain be Pain as bad as could be

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Table Q3: Level of pain at present time by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
How would you rate your tooth pain on a 0 to 10 scale at the present time, that is right now, where 0 is "no pain" and 10 is "pain as bad as could be"?												
None (0)	3	75.0	3	42.9	23	52.3	3	50.0	2	18.2	34	47.2
Mild (1-3)	1	25.0	4	57.1	14	31.8	2	33.3	9	81.8	30	41.7
Moderate (4-6)	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	15.9	1	16.7	0	0.0	8	11.1
Severe (7-10) - <i>none</i>												

- Among patients who indicated any pain in the past month, namely, the 6th month after treatment completed, 47% reported no current pain, 42% pain of mild intensity, 11% of moderate and none of severe intensity.

4. In the past month, how intense was your worst tooth pain rated on a 0 to 10 scale where 0 is "no pain" and 10 is "pain as bad as could be"?

No Pain be Pain as bad as could be

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Table Q4: Intensity of worst pain by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
In the past month, how intense was your worst tooth pain rated on a 0 to 10 scale where 0 is "no pain" and 10 is "pain as bad as could be"?												
None (0)	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.4
Mild (1-3)	3	75.0	4	57.1	24	54.6	2	33.3	8	72.7	41	56.9
Moderate (4-6)	1	25.0	2	28.6	10	22.7	3	50.0	3	27.3	19	26.4
Severe (7-10)	0	0.0	1	14.3	9	20.4	1	16.7	0	0.0	11	15.3

- Overall, about 57% of patients who indicated any pain in the past month reported their worst pain in the past month as being mild, 26% as moderate, and 15% as severe.

5. In the past month, on the average, how intense was your tooth pain rated on a 0 to 10 scale where 0 is "no pain" and 10 is "pain as bad as could be"? (That is, your usual pain at times you were experiencing pain.)

No Pain be													
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		Pain as bad as could be

Table Q5: Intensity of pain on the average by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
In the past month, on the average, how intense was your tooth pain rated on a 0 to 10 scale where 0 is "no pain" and 10 is "pain as bad as could be"? (That is, your usual pain at times you were experiencing pain.)												
None (0)	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	9.1	1	16.7	0	0.0	5	6.9
Mild (1-3)	4	100.0	5	71.4	28	63.6	3	50.0	10	90.9	50	69.4
Moderate (4-6)	0	0.0	2	28.6	10	22.7	2	33.3	1	9.1	15	20.8
Severe (7-10)	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	4.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.8

- Among patients who indicated any pain in the past month, about 69% of patients reported the average intensity of their pain as being mild, 21% as moderate, and 3% as severe.

6. About how many days in the past month have you been kept from your usual activities (work, school or housework) because of tooth pain?

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Days (If none, please write "0/0")

Table Q6: Number of days in past month tooth pain affected usual activities by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Kept from your usual activities because of tooth pain for at least one day in past month.												
Yes	0	0.0	1	14.3	3	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	5.3
No	4	100.0	6	85.7	43	93.5	6	100.0	12	100.0	71	94.7

- Among patients who indicated any pain in the past month, 5% of patients (n=4) reported that the pain kept them from their usual activities for at least one day in the past month.

11. If yes, what do you think was the cause of this tooth-type pain (please mark **only ONE** response)?

AMONG the 17 patients who indicated persistent pain, only overall numbers are indicated below:

- a. dental disease / infection (e.g., toothache) n=3
- b. dental treatment (e.g., root canal therapy) n=7
- c. trauma (e.g., traffic accident, injury, fall) n=1
- d. illness (e.g., cold, sinus infection, ear infection) n=0
- e. other pain(s) (e.g., headaches, TMJ/TMD) n=0
- f. stress n=0
- g. don't know n=6

12. Please rate how your feelings of fear about having a root canal compared to the actual experience.

- a. does not apply – I was not afraid.
- b. the experience was *better* than I feared.
- c. the experience was about what I feared.
- d. the experience was *worse* than what I feared.

Table Q12: Feelings of fear comparison by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Please rate how your feelings of fear about having a root canal compared to the actual experience.												
Doesn't apply	28	34.2	50	39.7	96	27.6	12	34.3	17	33.3	203	31.6
Better than feared	47	57.3	64	50.8	193	55.5	20	57.1	17	33.3	341	53.1
About what I feared	7	8.5	9	7.1	46	13.2	3	8.6	16	31.4	81	12.6
Worse than feared	0	0.0	3	2.4	13	3.7	0	0.0	1	2.0	17	2.7

- When comparing feelings of fear to the actual experiences, overall more patients reported better than feared at 53%; SK was lower with 33% indicating better than feared.

13. In the last 3 months, which of the following treatments have you sought to manage pain associated with your tooth that received root canal therapy? **(Mark all that apply and indicate the number of treatments in the last 3 months.)**

A. Additional dental treatment(s):

1. Additional root canal treatment(s): How many appointments?
2. Extraction of the tooth (tooth was removed)
3. Additional x-rays: How many appointments?

B. Medication(s) or supplement(s):

1. Pain medication (prescription or over the counter)
2. Antibiotics
3. Herbal/botanical

C. Appointment(s) with a medical doctor: How many appointments?

D. Alternative, complementary, or non-traditional health therapies:

1. Chiropractic care: How many appointments?
2. Acupuncture or acupressure: How many appointments?
3. Other: (please list) _____

E. None of the above.

Table Q13: Methods of pain management by DPBRN region

	AL/MS		FL/GA		MN		PDA		SK		TOTAL	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
In the last 3 months, which of the following treatments have you sought to manage pain associated with your tooth that received root canal therapy?												
Additional dental tx												
Additional root canal tx	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	2.7	3	8.6	3	5.8	16	2.4
Tooth extraction	0	0.0	3	2.3	4	1.1	0	0.0	1	1.9	8	1.2
Additional x-rays	0	0.0	1	0.8	12	3.3	1	2.9	5	9.6	19	2.8
Medications/Supplements												
Pain Medication	2	2.0	3	2.3	36	9.8	5	14.3	4	7.7	50	7.4
Antibiotics	0	0.0	2	1.6	7	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	1.4
Herbal/botanical	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Appt w/ medical dr	0	0.0	1	0.8	5	1.4	1	2.9	0	0.0	7	1.0
Alternative												
Chiropractic tx	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.3
Acupuncture	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.2
Other	0	0.0	1	0.8	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.3
None of the above	78	94.0	121	95.3	308	87.0	29	82.9	42	80.8	578	88.8

- Of the various modalities to manage pain, use of pain medication was most common, reported by 7% of patients; ranged from lows of 2%-3% (AL/MS, FL/GA) to 14% (PDA).
- Nearly 90% of responding patients had NOT used any type of medication, regular or alternative treatment modalities to manage pain associated with receipt of root canal therapy.