



Provider Perspectives on Pain Management Practices and Needs in Pediatric Dentistry



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Background/Objectives

- 1 in 3 children ages 6-14 years report experiencing pain during dental procedures
- Objective 1:** Assess utilization of and attitudes towards evidence-based pain-management (EBPM) approaches among pediatric dental providers
- Objective 2:** Collect feedback on knowledge, mobilization strategies, and priority areas for future research related to pediatric dental pain management

Methods

- An anonymous, online survey was sent to all members of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
- Section 1** assessed the perceived importance of this topic and scope of problems associated with pediatric dental pain management
- Section 2** evaluated pain management and assessment practices
- Section 3** identified barriers to accessing and utilizing EBPM strategies as well as interest in approaches for learning about EBPM

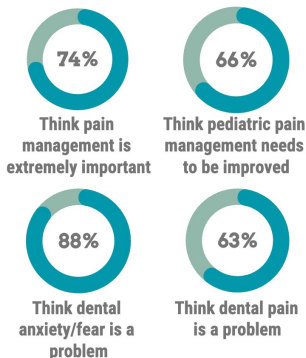
Participant Characteristics

N=625 eligible respondents

- 11% current residents, 30% practicing 20+ years
- 59% female and 40% male
- 73% White, 16% Asian, and 4% Black
- 93% non-Hispanic/Latinx

Results

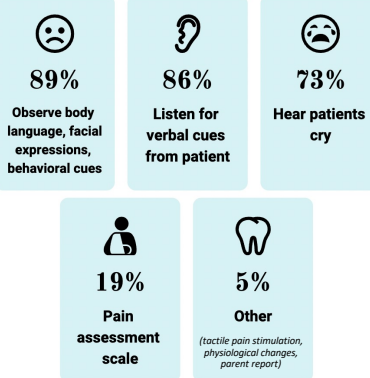
Provider Views:



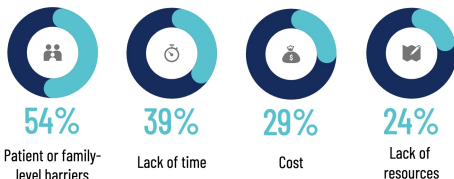
Non-Pharmacological Pain Management Strategies

Non-Pharmacological Pain Management Strategies	%
Distraction	88.2
Tell-show-do techniques	87.2
Supportive language and praise	85.2
Maintaining a calm environment	84.1
Encouraging deep breathing	76.6
Desensitization to dental setting & procedures	70.2
Electronic distractions (iPads, TV)	69.8
Parent/caregiver involvement	64.5
Guided imagery/relaxation	43.3
Playing music	39.3
Ceiling decorations	28.8
Play therapy	20.4

Pain Assessment Strategies Utilized



Barriers to Utilizing Evidence-Based Pain Management



Resources Needed

For Providers:	For Patients & Families:
1. CE & training	1. Pamphlets
2. Evidence summaries	2. Websites
3. Updates on new studies	3. Videos

Future Steps



Conclusions/Summary

- Pediatric dental providers view pain management as highly important and an area that needs improvement
- Providers report using a range of non-pharmacological pain management strategies and express interest in learning more about evidence-based pain management strategies for pediatric patients
- Findings can inform dissemination and implementation science efforts to improve pain management practices

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