



DPBRN Newsletter Winter 2010

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Mission Statement

"To improve oral health by conducting dental practice-based research and by serving dental professionals through education and collegiality".

Welcome to the Dental PBRN quarterly newsletter! This newsletter is designed to provide you a synopsis of the contents of our website, <http://www.DentalPBRN.org>.

You can also view the projects for which we are currently recruiting dental practitioners, as well as suggest and view new research ideas. When you visit our website you can complete your online training course that will provide the foundation for you to begin on a project if you have not already done so.

News Items

Dental PBRN publication cited as "notable publication for the year" by the American Medical Informatics Association

As part of its annual "Year in Review", the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) selected a recent Dental PBRN publication as one of its "high impact publications in clinical informatics". The AMIA is the professional home for biomedical and health informatics and comprises an interdisciplinary and diverse group of individuals and organizations from more than 65 countries. The article cited was: Houston TK, Richman JS, Ray MN, Allison JJ, Gilbert GH, Shewchuk RM, Kohler CL, Kiefe CI, for the DPBRN Collaborative Group. Internet-delivered support for tobacco control in dental practice: randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 2008; 10(5): e38.

This internet-delivered intervention encouraged and provided tools to discuss tobacco use with dental patients. This randomized clinical trial was successful. During the study period, there was a greater increase in tobacco cessation advice in intervention practices, compared with control. This article was detailed at the DPBRN web site as the news item entitled "The latest results from DPBRN's first clinical trial are now publicly available". Details about the "AMIA Informatics 2009 Year in Review" are available.

Congratulations to all the investigators associated with the "Dental Tobacco Control Trial"!

DPBRN Study: Blood sugar testing in dental practice

Before a study can begin in earnest, it needs to be pilot tested in order to ensure that it will run smoothly in daily clinical practice. The DPBRN study entitled "Blood sugar testing in dental practice" has completed this phase and is currently underway in the AL/MS, with the other regions, including Scandinavia, beginning shortly. This study plans on enrolling 25 practitioners across all regions with 375 patients. Dr. Andrei Barasch, of Birmingham, AL, is the Principal Investigator of the study, which aims to determine the feasibility of blood glucose measurement in dental practice. If successful, this may have significant public health benefits and establish dental practice as a point of entry into the health care system.

Dr. Randall Palmore and his staff in Pinson, Alabama have completed an evaluation of the screening and testing forms, as well as the consecutive log sheet for this study. The process involves screening patients based on their diabetes risks. If they qualify, they are tested with a glucose meter that is readily available in any drug store. Patients whose blood glucose is elevated are then referred to their physician for further evaluation and treatment. "As a practicing General Dentist for over 25 years I have seen my practice grow from a 'tooth'-focused practice to one that is beginning to look at the total health of my patients. I believe blood glucose screening is another great way of demonstrating to my patients the importance of maintaining long-term health by early detection." Based on initial suggestions, changes have been made to the screening and testing forms to help increase the ease and efficiency of this study.



DPBRN is an effort to help dental professionals directly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of dental care. Essentially, it is research done about and in the "real world" of daily clinical practice.



Dr. Wilson Wright, of Birmingham, AL completed the study after changes had been made based on the pilot study. " In this DPBRN study about blood glucose screening in the dental office, many of our screened patients stated that this test was the first time that they had ever had this done.



Some have referred to much of dental research conducted to date as "scientifically valid, statistically significant, but clinically useless". We would like to change that.

"We are glad that we participated in this study for several reasons. For example, these tests afford the dentist an opportune position to enhance the overall health and well-being of their patients. Our patients seemed impressed that we were conducting a scientific study and that we are part of an international practice-based research network. We feel that our participation not only benefits our patients, but that it also benefits the stature and quality of our practice."



Denmark trains practitioner-investigators for DPBRN study "Prevalence of questionable occlusal caries lesions"

On November 3, 2009, 13 dental hygienists and 10 dentists attended a training session for the DPBRN study "Prevalence of questionable occlusal caries lesions" at the Faculty of Health at University of Copenhagen. For 20 practitioners this was their first study and the first study to include dental hygienists.

Dr. Vibeke Qvist, Principal Investigator for the Scandinavian region, along with Lene Fabricius-Bekker and Pia Elisabeth Nørrisgaard, Regional Coordinators, gave a short presentation of the agenda for the evening and started with a DPBRN update, including a synopsis of the Minneapolis face-to-face meeting in September 2009. Study packets were then distributed to all the practitioner-investigators, which included the training manual and forms, followed by questions and discussion about the material. The practitioner-investigators were very enthusiastic about participating in this study and initial feedback has been positive!



Studies Update

- **Reasons for repair or replacement of dental restorations**
Data collection ended October 2009
- **Patient satisfaction with dental restorations**
Data collection ended October 2009. This study was in conjunction with "Reasons for repair or replacement of dental restorations"
- **Longitudinal study of dental restorations placed on previously unrestored surfaces**
Data collection has begun with baseline enrollment completed December 2008 at the last enrolled practice
- **Longitudinal study of reasons for repair or replacement of dental restorations**
Data collection is currently underway
- **Prevalence of questionable occlusal caries lesions**
Data collection is currently underway with an anticipated data completion date of February 2010
- **Peri-operative pain and root canal therapy**
Pilot testing in the Minnesota region will begin Winter 2010, with data collection in other regions anticipated to begin Spring 2010
- **Blood sugar testing in the dental practice**
Pilot testing is complete with anticipated data collection continuing until Winter/Spring 2010

Contact Us

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