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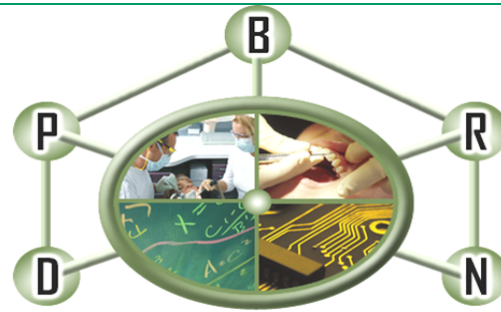
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Each month we will highlight a recent DPBRN publication, recent study results, or other important DPBRN information.

## Abstract of DPBRN Publication of the Month

Frequency of persistent tooth pain after root canal therapy: a systematic review and meta-analysis *J Endod* 2010;36: 224-230

The February 2010 issue of Journal of Endodontics features an article entitled "Frequency of persistent tooth pain after root canal therapy: a systematic review and meta-analysis". The purpose of this article was to research the frequency of persistent pain after endodontic procedures through a systematic review. Persistent tooth pain was defined as pain present  $\geq 6$  months after endodontic treatment. Endodontic procedures included in the review were pulpectomy, nonsurgical root canal treatment, surgical root canal treatment, and retreatment. Using subgroup analyses, they explored the influence of treatment approach (surgical/nonsurgical), longitudinal study design (prospective/retrospective), follow-up rate, follow-up duration, initial treatment versus retreatment, and quality of reporting on the pain frequency estimate. Of 770 articles retrieved and reviewed, 26 met the inclusion criteria. A total of 5,777 teeth were enrolled, and 2,996 had follow-up information regarding pain status. 168 teeth were identified with pain and derived a frequency of 5.3% for persistent all-cause tooth pain. Prospective studies had a higher pain frequency (7.6%) than retrospective studies did (0.9%). The frequency of all-cause persistent tooth pain after endodontic procedures was estimated to be 5.3%, with higher report quality studies suggesting  $>7\%$ . [Click here to read the article.](#)