

Parental Perception on Continuity of Care in a Pediatric Dental Setting

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Abstract

In the context of pediatric dentistry, this study investigates whether parents prefer their children to see the same dental provider across visits.

The majority (93.1%) favored continuity of care, emphasizing its role in trust-building and comfort. Parents believed their child's behavior (89.1%) and overall dental experience (93.1%) would improve with a consistent provider. Interestingly, while 67.3% were willing to wait longer for appointments to maintain continuity, the latter prioritized shorter waits.

Introduction

Continuity of care has been defined as repeated contact between an individual patient and doctor. Handling pediatric patients adds an additional member into the treatment, creating a triangle between patients, parents, and doctors.

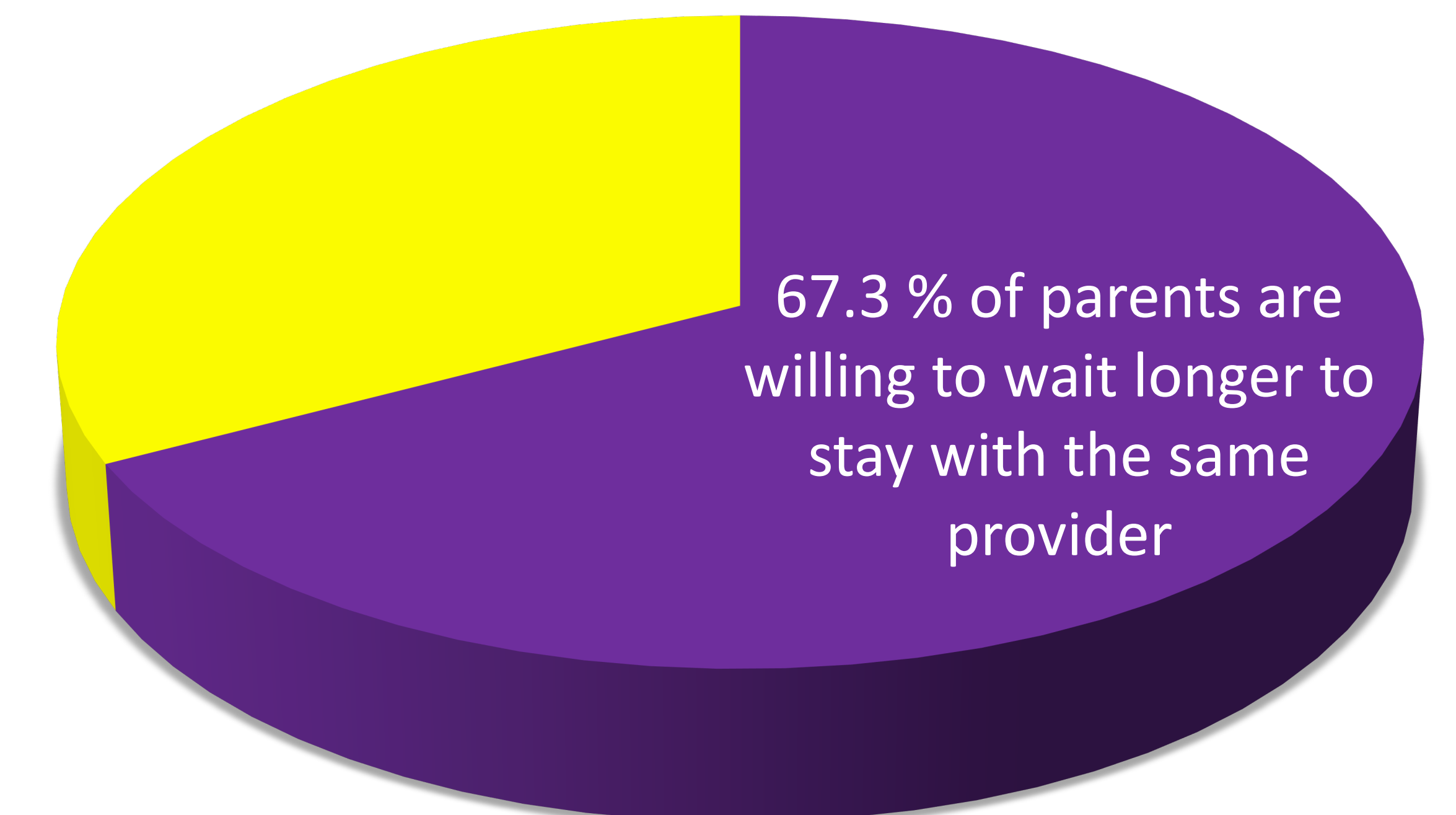
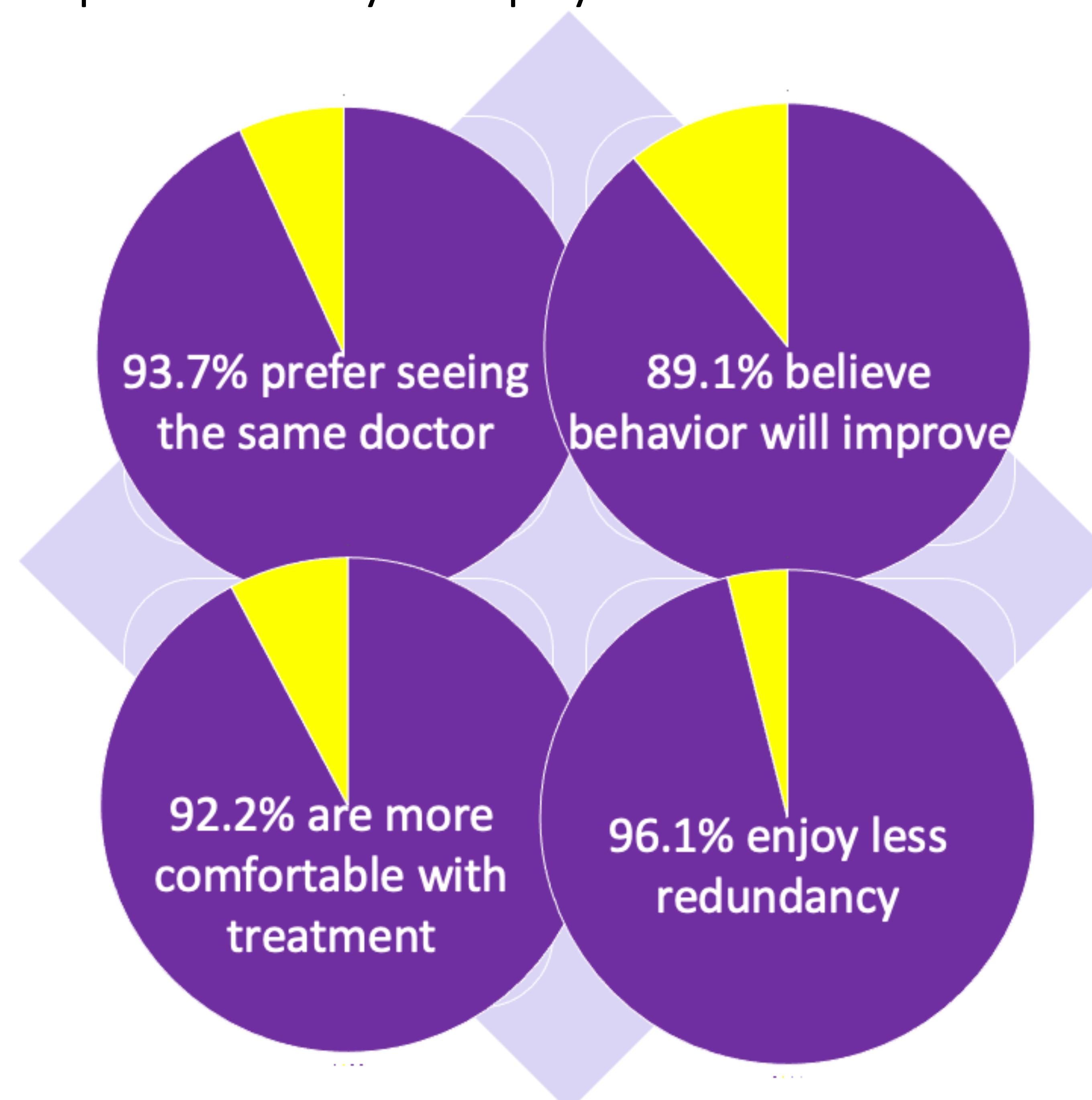
There is a clear rationale for the use of continuity of care as doctors can accumulate additional knowledge of patients to provide improved treatment outcomes. Continuity of care is considered one of the important attributes of primary health care as it has been associated with improved communication, trust, empathy, and interpersonal relationships.

Methods

- Parents of pediatric dental patient were surveyed.
- We had 102 participants of parents of children that are patients at the East Carolina School of Dental Medicine.
- Surveys were provided via an iPad during their child's dental visit.
- IRB approved study.
- Redcap used to collect, store, and analyze data.

Results

It was found that with continuity of care parents surveyed display the results below.



Conclusions

This study illuminates the intricate interplay of parental preferences within the framework of continuity of care in pediatric dental settings. The resounding preference for seeing the same doctor and the high levels of comfort associated with continuity of care emphasize its potential to enhance the overall dental experience for both children and their parents. These findings underscore the significance of fostering trusting relationships between healthcare providers, parents, and young patients.

References

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