

# Pediatric Patient Emergency Visit Frequency While Awaiting Operating Room Treatment

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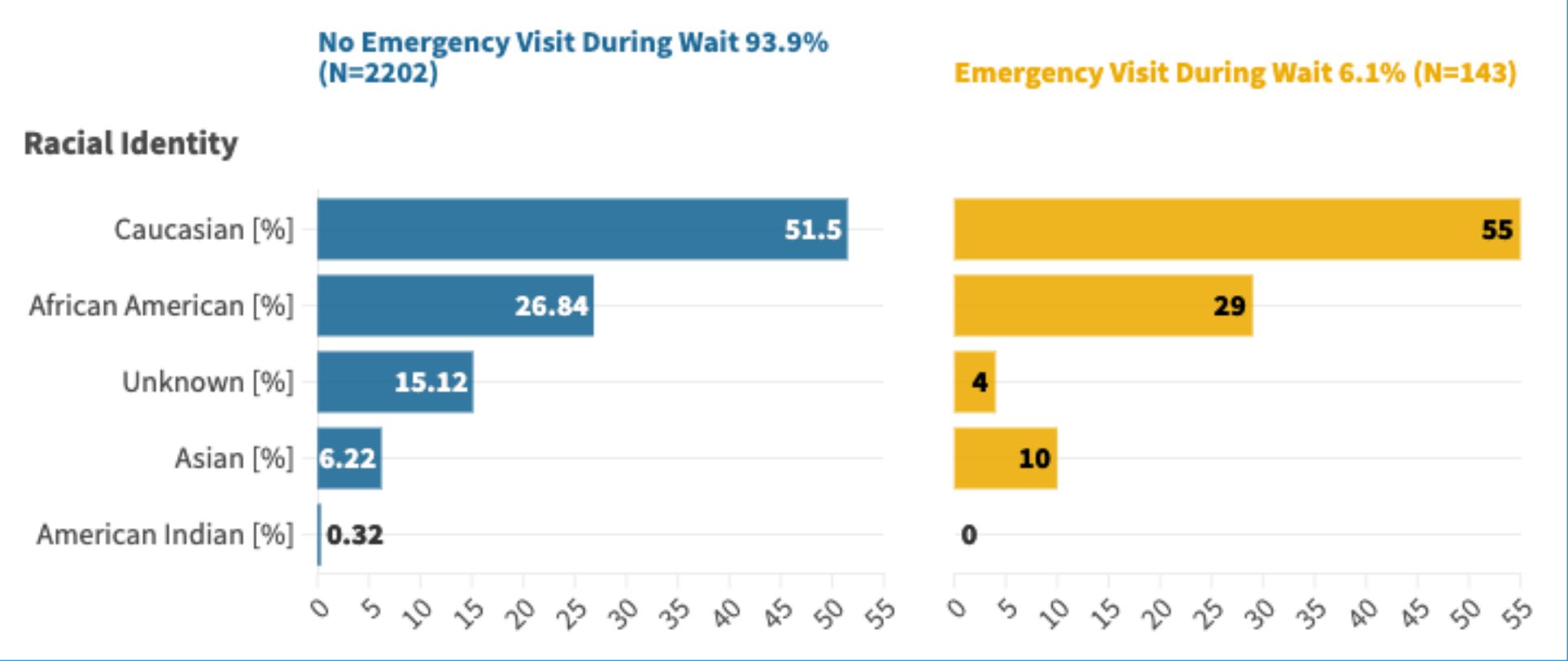
## Introduction

- Increasing demand for operating room (OR) dental treatment leads to longer wait times<sup>1,2</sup>
- Studies show nearly 1 in 4 patients on waitlists for definitive OR treatment present earlier for emergency treatment<sup>3</sup>
- This study aims to assess the rates of emergency visits while waiting for planned OR treatment, the role of longer wait times on rates of emergency visits, and potential risk factors for emergency visits
- In addition, this study explored what type of treatment is provided during emergency visits
- Findings may assist in risk stratification ahead of OR treatment and facilitate triage of high-risk patients for earlier operative dates

## Methods

- A retrospective chart review was performed on all patients treated in the OR by Eastman Institute of Oral Health’s Division of Pediatric Dentistry from March 2021 to March 2023
- Variables gathered were age, gender, race, ethnicity, insurance status, need for language interpreter, ASA status, waitlist time, if operative date was changed/postponed, number of days between placement on OR waitlist and first emergency visit, number of emergency visits to EIOH while awaiting OR appointment, and treatment performed during emergency visits
- ASA 4 patients were excluded in this study as they are rarely treated at this clinical setting
- Univariate and multivariate analysis were performed with statistical significance defined as  $p < .05$

## Results



## Analysis

- No demographic factors were significantly associated with emergency visits
- Need for emergency visits and treatment was most influenced by number of days waiting for OR appointment
- There was about a 1 month in difference of average wait time for those who came in for emergency treatment vs those who did not
- When emergency treatment was provided, extractions and pulpotomies were the most commonly performed procedures

## Conclusions & Discussion

- Longer wait times are significantly associated with higher rates of emergency visits
- The rate of emergency visits ahead of OR treatment is approximately 6.2% of patients within our subpopulation
- This project illustrates the need for better access to ORs at both outpatient and hospital settings for pediatric dentists across the nation
- Continuing advocacy for hospital and outpatient operating room privileges by the pediatric dental community in order to provide timely care for patients is key

## References

1) Campbell RL, Shetty NS, Shetty KS, Pope HL, Campbell JR. Pediatric Dental Surgery Under General Anesthesia: Uncooperative Children. Anesth Prog. 2018 Winter;65(4):225-230.  
2) Nagarkar SR, Kumar JV, Moss ME. Early childhood caries—related visits to emergency departments and ambulatory surgery facilities and associated charges in New York state. The Journal of the American Dental Association. 2012; 143: 59–65.  
3) Ashok M, Lumsden C, Myers A, Yoon R. Emergency dental treatment among patients waitlisted for the operating room. J Clin Pediatr Dent. 2023 May;47(3):54-58.Epub 2023 May 3.

