

Introduction

Patients with special healthcare needs often face unique challenges in accessing dental care. The dental environment can be overwhelming for those patients given their sensory issues.

BEE MINDFUL™ is a program for children with special needs in healthcare that provides individualized care and provides a safe place for healing and wellness. Its application to the dental setting could lead to better dental visit outcomes for these patients.

The research project by Anthony Skrobola, DDS concluded that Bee Mindful is being underutilized in the dental setting and that increased usage of the Bee Mindful alert may lead to greater usage and better patient experience.

Purpose

This study was conducted to assess if the incorporation of a dental digital tag in the Dentrix software will lead to higher utilization of the Bee Mindful cart.

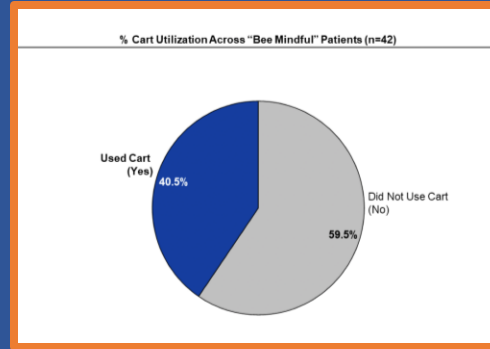
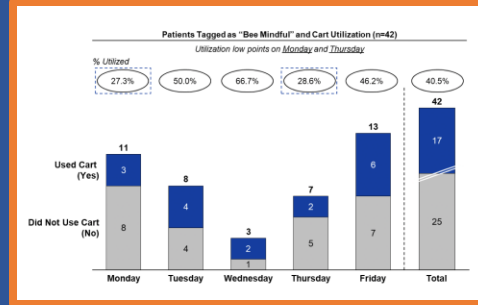
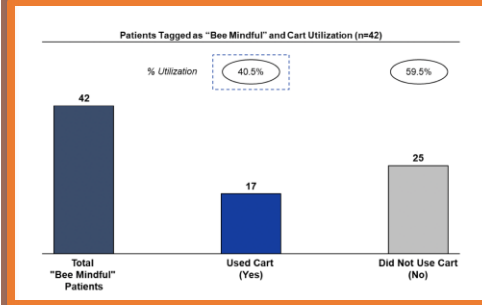
Methods

Data was collected from the current list of patient's tagged as Bee Mindful in the Pediatric Dental Clinic and from the Bee Mindful sign-out book in our Pediatric Dental Department.

A list of patients that came to the clinic during the study period and were tagged (Bee Mindful Kids) was created. Then the Bee Mindful sign-out book was reviewed to see if cart was used for those patients.



Findings



Results

The Bee Mindful cart was underutilized in the dental setting

Conclusions/Discussions

- ❖ On assessing the reasons for the underutilization of the Bee Mindful cart, certain valuable recommendations were made by dental providers, dental assistants and dental hygienists. Most of these recommendations will be implemented in the dental clinic to help improve the quality of care for the patients who need these neurobehavioral tools to make their dental visits successful.
- ❖ The Bee Mindful cart will be unlocked each morning and remain unlocked for the entirety of the day.
- ❖ The dental department is working on assigning set weekdays for patients with special needs. This way the dental team will be ready and mindful to use the Bee Mindful cart.
- ❖ Dental appointments for Bee Mindful patients will be increased by 10 minutes. This will allow time to use the cart.
- ❖ Bee Mindful patients should have the option to wear a yellow sticker provided by the dental front desk. This will act as a constant reminder to any provider or staff about the child that would need the neurobehavioral tool.
- ❖ We can also include a portable neural behavioral machine that can be transported from room to room.
- ❖ Our goal is to increase the utilization of the neurobehavioral tool that been provided to us, which in turn will increase quality and success of the dental visit for children with special health care needs, without inconveniencing the dental team.

References

