



Northern Ontario Dental Professionals' Perceptions of Silver Diamine Fluoride

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Purpose

Aim: Analyze the awareness, acceptability, general and economic perception, potential patient acceptance, and educational workshop impact of silver diamine fluoride (SDF) for early childhood caries (ECC) management in pediatric patients among dental professionals (DPs) in Northern Ontario, Canada.

Methods

Sample: Dental Hygienists (DH) and Dentists (DENT) that attended a Minimally Invasive Dentistry Workshop in Thunder Bay, Canada.

Questionnaire: Demographics, SDF general and economic perceptions, acceptability and use, and the workshop's influence were collected.

Analysis: Descriptive and Chi-squared statistics were conducted with significance set at $P < .05^*$.

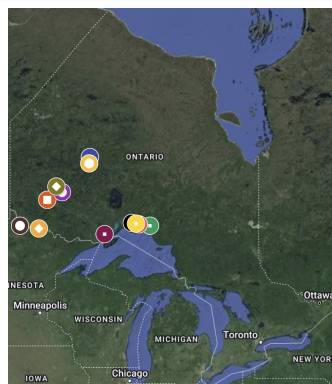
Results

n=46



Dental Hygienists= 58.7% (n=27)

Dentists= 41.3% (n=19)



- Thunder Bay
- Dryden
- Fort Frances
- Rainy River
- Sioux Lookout
- Pickle Lake
- Lac Seul
- Mishkeegogmang
- Marathon
- Rosspport
- Terrace Bay
- Schreiber

Figure 1: Regional distribution of communities participants reported serving.

Results

Table 1. Characteristics of Study Participants

		All	DH	DENT	P-value
Age	Mean (SD)	47.8 (2.03)	47.3 (2.48)	48.5 (3.45)	n/a
Sex	Male Female	26.1% 73.9%	0% 100.0%	63.2% 36.8%	<.001*
Years of practice	1-5	8.7%	7.4%	10.5%	.257
	6-10	15.2%	7.4%	26.3%	
	11-15	8.7%	11.1%	5.3%	
	16-20	13%	18.5%	5.3%	
	21-30	19.6%	25.9%	10.5%	
	31 or more	34.8%	29.7%	42.1%	
Proportion of Pediatric Patients Served (≤ 12 years old)	0%	11.1%	11.1%	11.1%	.492
	25%	60%	51.9%	72.2%	
	50%	17.8%	25.9%	5.6%	
	75%	4.4%	3.7%	5.6%	
	100%	6.7%	7.4%	5.6%	

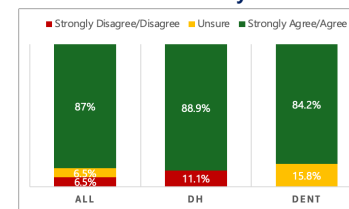
Table 2. Awareness and Use of SDF

		All	DH	DENT	P-value
Awareness of SDF use for pediatric patients before the workshop	Yes	100%	100%	100%	n/a
	No	0%	0%	0%	
Education on SDF use for pediatric patients as part of professional training	Yes	42.5%	45.5%	38.9%	.676
	No	57.5%	54.5%	61.1%	
Utilization of SDF in clinical practice	Yes	43.5%	37%	52.6%	.293
	No	56.5%	63%	47.4%	

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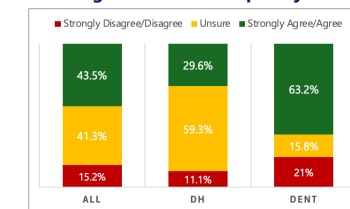
Results

I would use SDF to treat ECC in my community



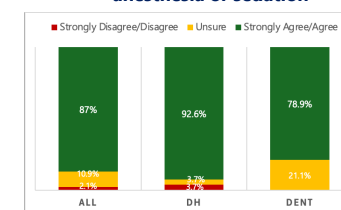
P=.041*

Parents of my patients would not accept SDF staining on anterior temporary teeth



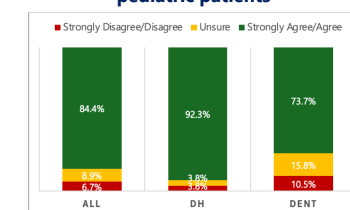
P=.013*

SDF could potentially lower the number of pediatric patients requiring general anesthesia or sedation



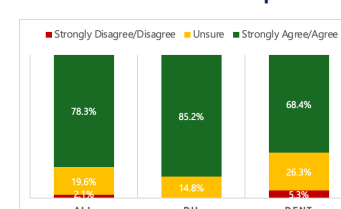
P=.113

The workshop made me more likely to choose SDF treatment for pediatric patients



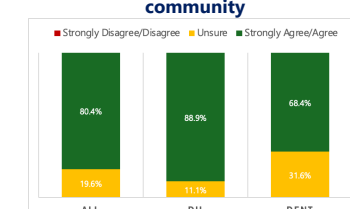
P=.229

SDF is more "cost-effective" than other ECC treatment options



P=.276

SDF cost is more reasonable when compared to alternative treatment options in my community



P=.085

Conclusions

The results suggest that even though DPs surveyed hold some different opinions on SDF, there is an avenue for the uptake of the material, especially with an accompanying educational component.