



ASSESSMENT OF ORAL HEALTH PRACTICES FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION AT PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY CENTERS

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BACKGROUND

- ❖ Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation(HSCT) can produce significant oral side effects. (1, 2)
- ❖ Untreated dental decay or periodontal disease can lead to life threatening infections in immunosuppressed patients. (3, 4)
- ❖ Limited research currently exists in the literature regarding current oral health practices among pediatric patients undergoing HSCT in the United States.
- ❖ The objectives of the study were to evaluate oral health practices and recommendations given to pediatric patients undergoing HSCT treatment in the United States and to identify challenges in oral health care for patients undergoing HSCT.

METHODS

- ❖ A survey was developed by a team of physicians and dentists to query current practices regarding oral health during HSCT.
- ❖ Colorado Multiple Institution Review Board approved the research study.
- ❖ The RedCap survey was distributed via email to all 83 HSCT centers in the United States.
- ❖ Responses were analyzed based on the size of HSCT center to evaluate oral health practices, dental treatment, and challenges encountered in patient care.

RESULTS

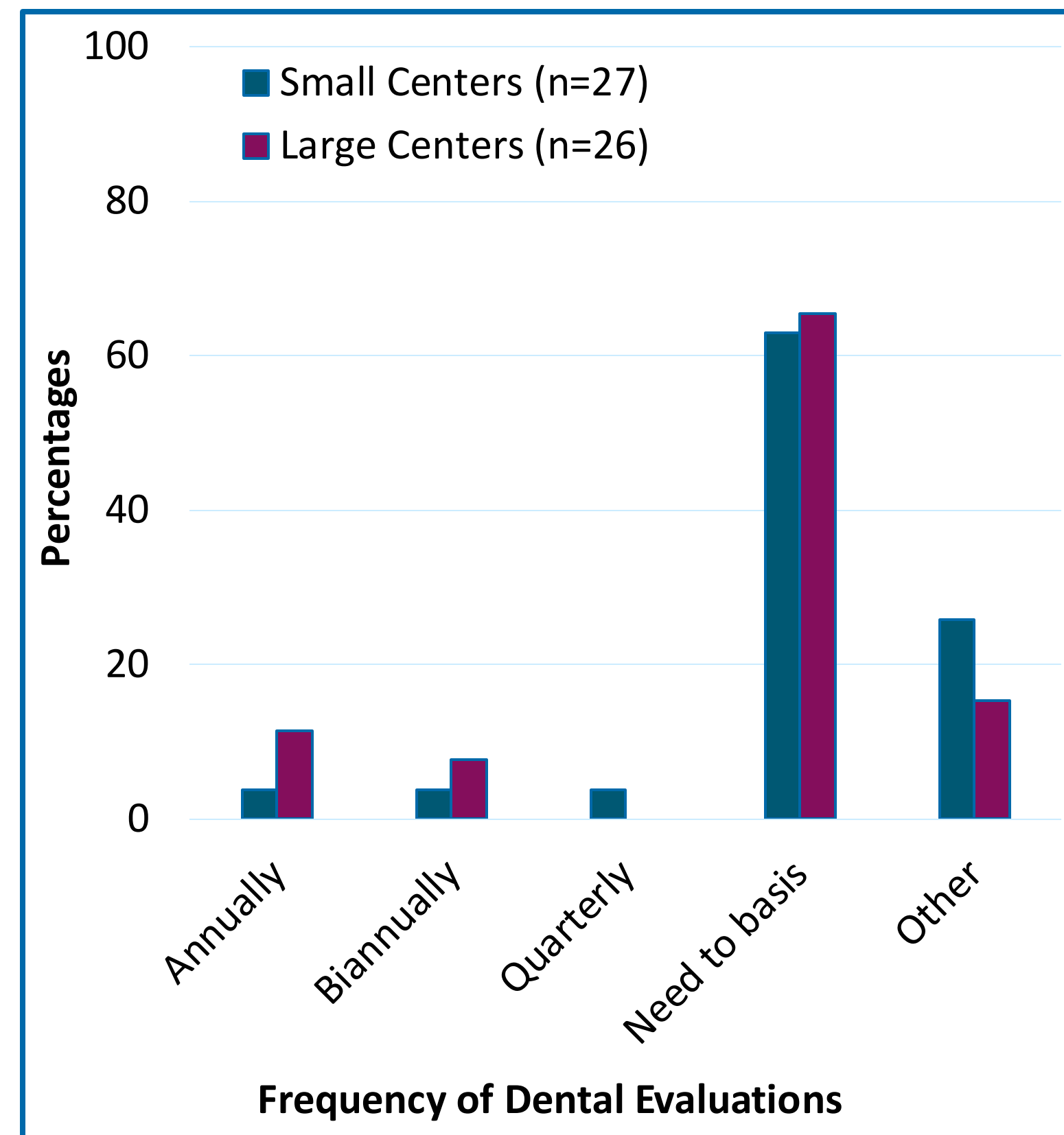


Figure 1: Frequency of oral evaluations from diagnosis to HSCT at small size or large size centers.

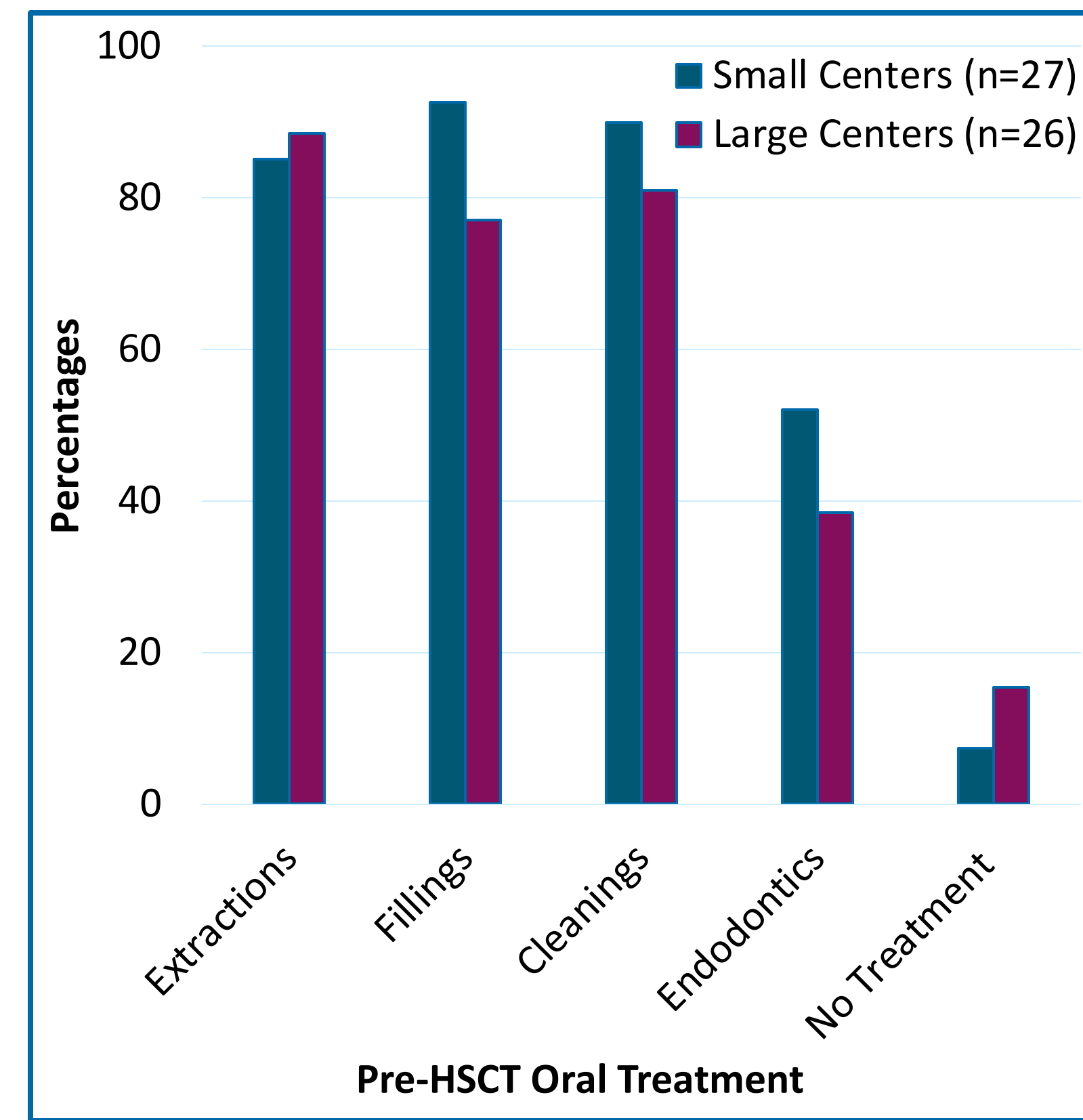


Figure 2: Proportion of dental treatment received before HSCT at small size or large size centers.

- ❖ 53 HSCT centers responded (64%) and were classified based on annual transplants as small (median of 31) or large (median of 94).
- ❖ Patients at most centers receive a comprehensive dental evaluation prior to HSCT (median response of 98%).
- ❖ 87% of centers have access to a dentist with hospital privileges to evaluate patients, but larger centers were more likely to than smaller centers (p=.01).
- ❖ Most centers recommend daily toothbrushing (96%) and daily chlorhexidine rinses (61%).
- ❖ 89% of centers require dental treatment completion prior to HSCT.
- ❖ The common dental treatments completed are restorative treatment(85%), extractions (87%), and cleanings (85%).
- ❖ Patient and caregiver education is provided most often by verbal instruction (77%), before transplantation (73%).
- ❖ Reported challenges included availability of dental treatment (54%),chronic graft versus host disease management (52%) and mucositis (37%).

CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Oral health care is well integrated into HSCT centers in the United States.
- ❖ Most patients receive comprehensive exams by a dentist prior to HSCT, daily oral hygiene care, and have required dental treatment completed prior to transplantation.
- ❖ Most centers had access to a dentist to complete consultations and evaluations while patients are admitted, but larger centers had improved access relative to smaller centers.

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