

Impact of Wait Time for General Anesthesia on Oral Health Quality of Life in Young Children



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Objective

- To explore the relationship between wait time for dental treatment under general anesthesia (**GA**) and patient behaviors and quality of life using the Early Childhood Oral Health Impact Scale (**ECOHIS**)¹⁰

Background

- Wait time for surgery based on recent studies 111-228 days^{3, 4,8}
- Reimbursement for dental surgery lower than medical procedures¹¹

Methods

- Cross-sectional, prospective study
- Caregivers of patients 0-6 years old at GA visit, who read English or Spanish
- ECOHIS and 8-question survey related to pain, medications, emergency/urgent dental treatment
- GA visit data included number of teeth restored and extracted
- Statistical analysis including logistic regression

48.1% of patients sought care in an Emergency Department, Urgent Care, or the hospital dental clinic while waiting for general anesthesia

Higher ECOHIS scores were associated with increased emergency visits

Results

- Sample size: 380 caregiver/patient dyads
 - 344 English, 36 Spanish
 - Median wait time (days): 125 (IQR 98-151)
 - 57% reported pain >3 months
 - 48.1% sought care in Emergency Department, Urgent Care, or hospital dental clinic
 - 15% had antibiotic prescription
 - 4% had hospital admission
- Higher ECOHIS family scores were associated with increased odds of antibiotic prescriptions and hospital admissions
- Higher ECOHIS scores were associated with an increased rate of emergency visits (child $P < 0.001$, family $P = 0.002$)
- Wait time had no associations between ECOHIS, antibiotic prescriptions, hospital admissions, or emergency visits

Discussion:

- Although wait time is not associated with higher ECOHIS scores, patients with higher scores may utilize more emergency services.
- Further analysis comparing English to Spanish survey responses is pending.

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References

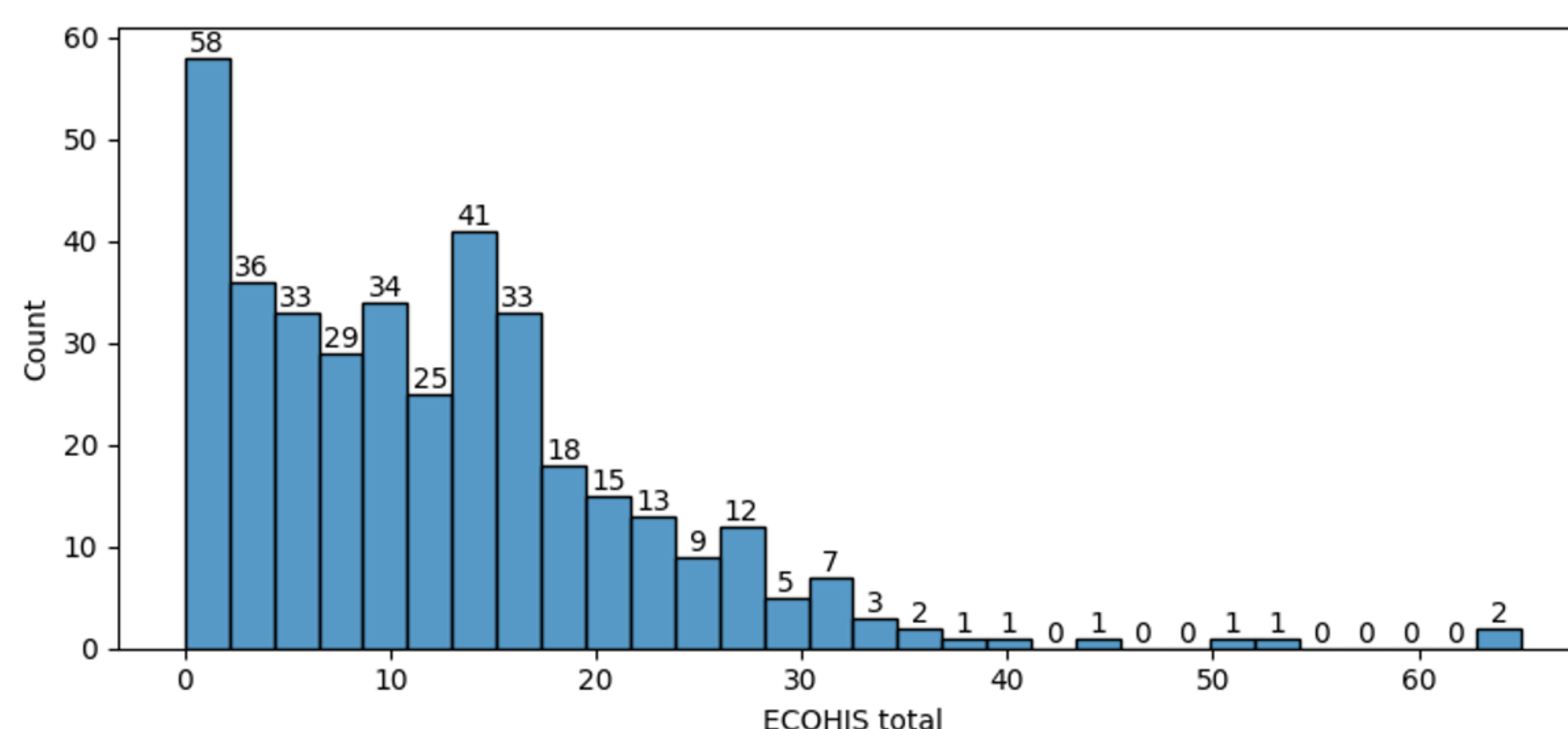


Figure 1. Distribution of ECOHIS total scores.

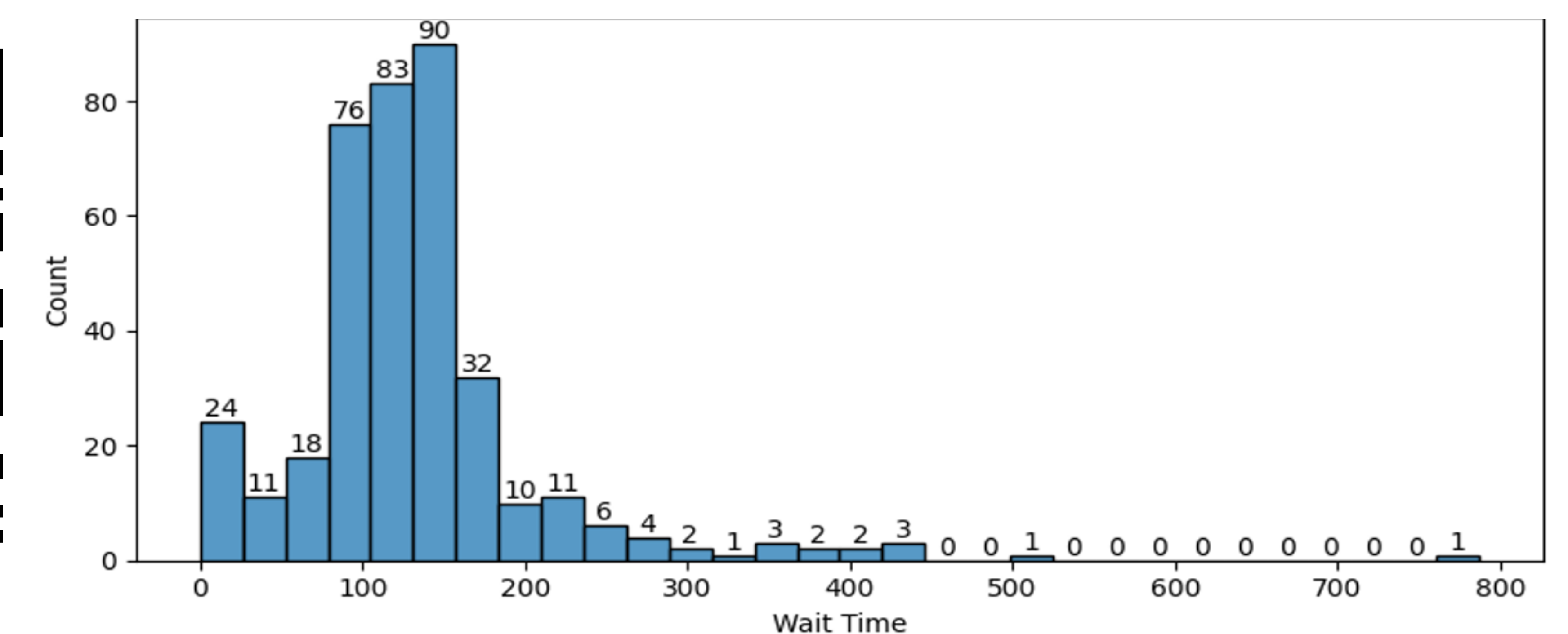


Figure 2. Distribution of wait time in days.