

What is the percentage of patients that follow up and become patients of record following a visit to the Operating Room or the Emergency Department



Chandler Nielson, DMD¹, Kameron Toney, DMD¹, Matthew Downey DMD², Daniel Kane, DMD³
Providence, RI: Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, Hasbro Children's Hospital, Tri-County Community Action Agency Pediatric Dental Clinic

NYU Langone Dental Medicine
Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry

INTRODUCTION

- Establishment of a dental home is a pivotal aspect in the field of pediatric dentistry which should ideally be established at the first sign of erupting teeth and no later than 1 year of age.
- Despite the oral region comprising about 1 percent of the overall body, it accounts for about 5 percent of all trauma. Childhood and adolescence have been recognized as high-risk periods for dental injuries, with approximately 80 percent occurring in individuals younger than 20 years old.
- Caries is also the most common chronic disease experienced in childhood. 1 out of every 4 children under the age of 5 in the USA are affected by dental caries. These can progress, if untreated, to an abscess, swelling and/or acute pain.
- General anesthesia (GA) is a treatment modality utilized for patients where nonpharmacological methods of behavior management are not a viable approach. Due to reasons such as unable to cooperate due to lack of psychological or emotional maturity and/or mental, physical, or medical conditions.
- We hypothesize that greater than half of the patients encountered in the emergency department (ED) and in the operating room for dental treatment will matriculate to become patients of record.

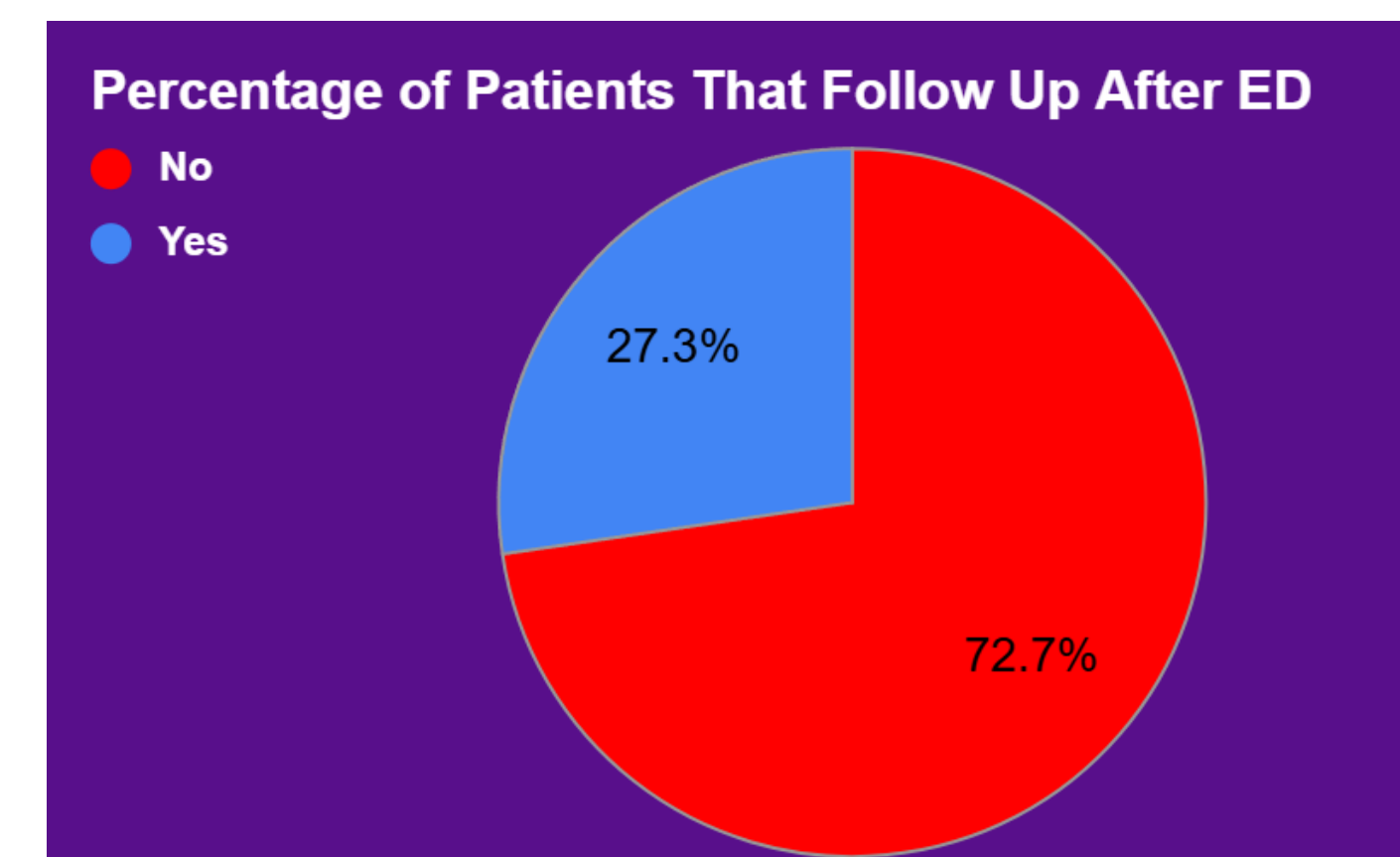
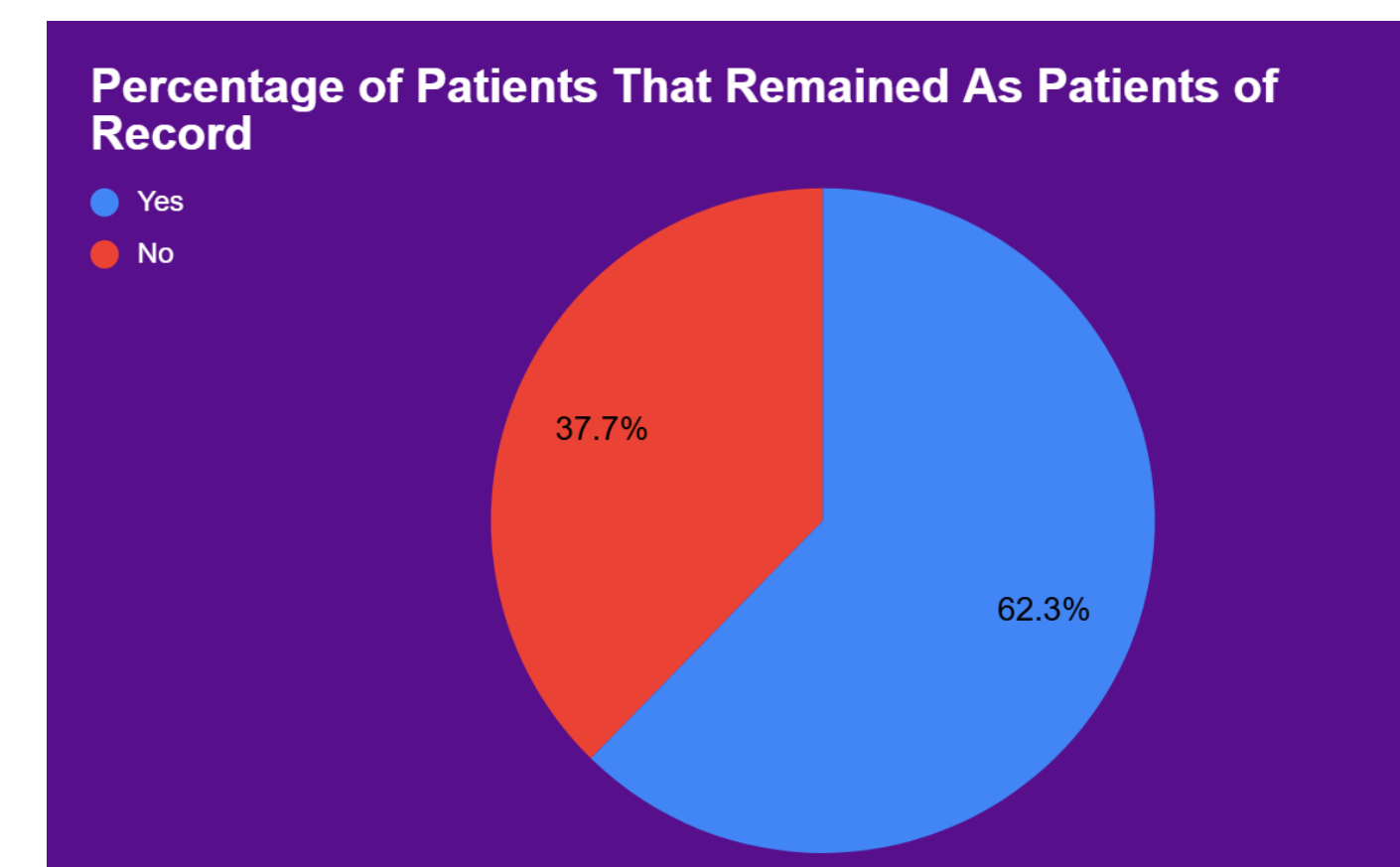
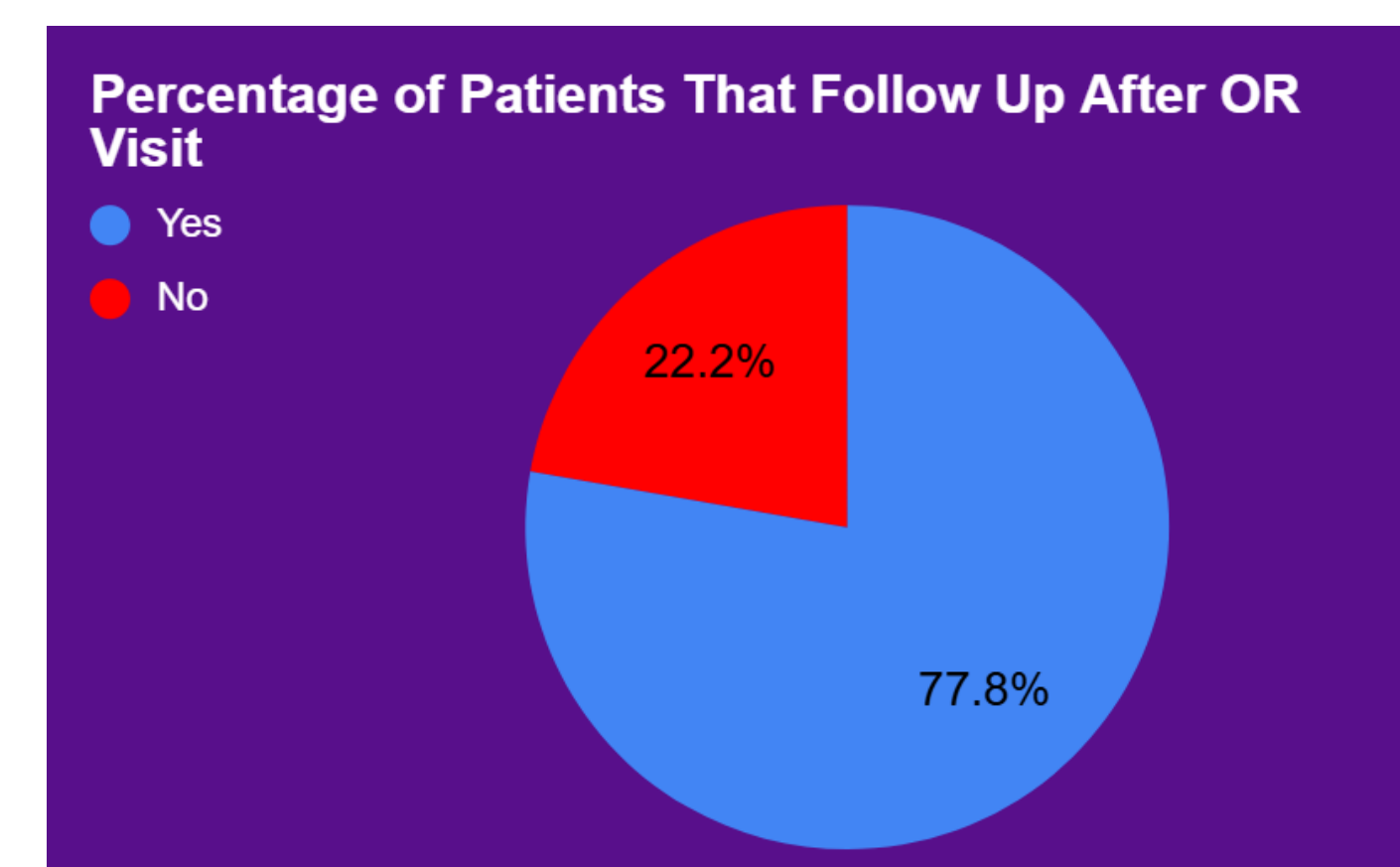
PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to assess the prevalence of patients that were encountered at the emergency department and in the operating room and then assessing the percentage of patients that followed up in the clinic and became patients of record.

METHOD

- This study involved patients that were encountered for after hours emergencies, and/or seen for general anesthesia treatment
- Records were reviewed over a 6-month period from January 1st to June 30th, 2025.
- Patients date of service was recorded and then information was recorded on whether the patient attended a follow up appointment in the dental clinic and whether they remained as a patient of record.
- Status on follow-up and appointment attendance was recorded utilizing binary responses (Yes/ No)
- No statistical analysis necessary due to no comparison group

FIGURES



RESULTS

- Of the 185 patients seen attended to by a Tri-County resident in the ED, approximately 27% followed up in the clinic (50/185). Additionally, approximately 48% (24/50) of those patients needed further treatment that required general anesthesia.
- Over the 6-month period, 207 patients were seen under general anesthesia for dental treatment of which, 57% (118/207) were referred to the clinic from an outside source. After receiving GA treatment, approximately 77% (161/207) of patients presented for their follow up and 129 patients remained as patients of record.

CONCLUSIONS

- General anesthesia treatment serves as an important treatment modality for patients referred from outside clinics and patients encountered for emergencies
- Majority of patients that receive GA treatment attend follow up appointments and remained patients of record
- This study supports our hypothesis that most patients would remain patients of record after receiving dental treatment under GA
- This study did not support the hypothesis that most patients seen in the ED would follow up and remain patients of record
- Data with patients encountered in the ED could be skewed since there's overlap as many of these patients needed treatment under GA

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