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## Introduction

Parental presence during pediatric dental treatment remains a controversial topic. While many parents believe their presence provides emotional support and improves child cooperation, pediatric dentists often report that parental presence may interfere with behavior guidance, reduce clinical efficiency, and increase provider stress.

Previous studies have demonstrated that a majority of parents prefer to remain in the operatory during treatment, with reported acceptance rates for “no parents in the room” policies as low as 33–34%.

Despite this conflict, limited research has explored alternative solutions that balance parental preferences with clinical efficiency. Live video monitoring may serve as a novel compromise, allowing parental observation without physical presence.

## Objectives

- Evaluate parental acceptance of a “no parents in the room” policy.
- Determine whether live video monitoring increases acceptance of this policy.
- Identify demographic and psychological factors influencing parental acceptance.

## Hypothesis

Parents offered live video monitoring will demonstrate higher acceptance of the policy compared to those without this option.

## Materials and Methods

This study is an IRB-approved, randomized, comparative survey study conducted at the UNLV Pediatric Dental Clinic.

### Participants

Parents/legal guardians of children aged 0–16 years

Recruited during pediatric dental visits

Target sample size: 100 participants (50 per group)

### Study Design

Participants are randomly assigned to one of two groups:

#### Group A:

“No parents in the room” policy (no accommodations)

#### Group B:

Same policy + optional live video monitoring (iPad, no audio)

### Procedure

Informed consent obtained

Participants complete a 5–10 minute anonymous survey

Surveys assess:

- Acceptance of policy
- Perceived concerns/benefits
- Demographics and attitudes

### Data Handling

Anonymous responses

Paper surveys stored securely and later digitized

Data analyzed in aggregate form only

## Preliminary Data Collection

Data collection is currently ongoing.

### Preliminary observations suggest:

- A general preference among parents for being present during treatment
- Increased openness to alternative solutions when accommodations are provided
- Variability in acceptance based on individual attitudes and perceptions

Final statistical analysis will compare acceptance rates between groups and evaluate predictors of acceptance.

## Discussion

This study addresses a clinically relevant challenge in pediatric dentistry: balancing parental expectations with optimal treatment conditions.

Live video monitoring introduces a potential **middle-ground solution**, allowing:

- Parental reassurance and involvement
- Maintenance of clinical efficiency
- Reduced disruption during treatment

If supported by final results, this approach may:

- Improve patient and parent satisfaction
- Enhance behavior guidance outcomes
- Provide a scalable, technology-driven solution in pediatric dental settings

## Conclusion

Preliminary findings suggest that parental acceptance of “no parents in the room” policies may improve when alternative forms of involvement, such as live video monitoring, are offered.

This model has the potential to bridge the gap between parental preferences and provider needs, contributing to more patient-centered pediatric dental care.

Final results are pending completion of data collection.

## References

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