

The Periodicity of Dental Examinations and Need for Emergency Dental Extraction

David Hudson DDS, Sujatha Sivaraman BDS DMD MPH, Shreekrishna Akilesh DMD MPH FAAPD
Advanced Education in Pediatric Dentistry, NYU Langone Dental Medicine, Missouri Site

NYU Langone Dental Medicine
Postdoctoral Residency Program

INTRODUCTION

- Establishing a dental home and regular dental visits, provides a foundation for quality oral health care throughout a patient's life
- If oral health is neglected, there are often untreated dental needs that can lead to significant negative impacts
 - Patient's may experience pain, miss school, visit the emergency room and have an overall reduced quality of life
- These negative outcomes are more when teeth are non-restorable and require extraction
- Patients should be seen regularly to assess any dental needs before negative impacts are experienced
- Recommended dental exam intervals vary based on individual caries risk and other factors

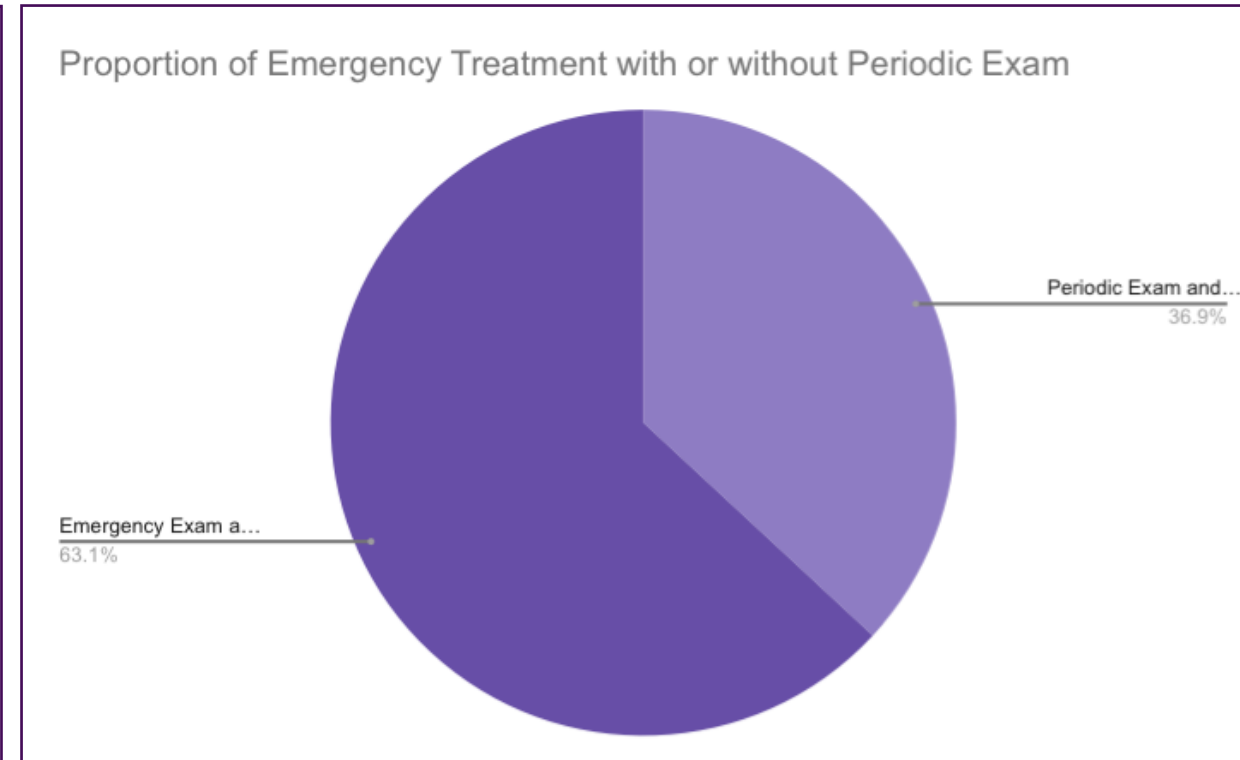
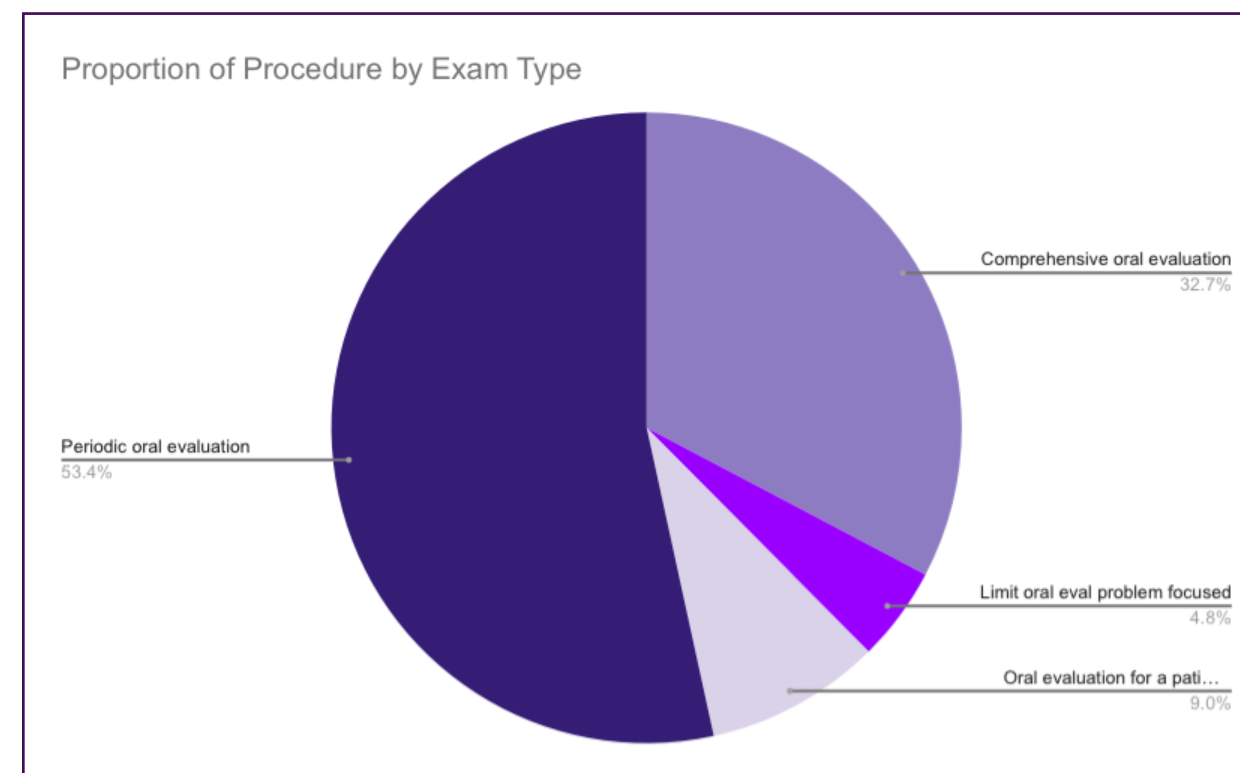
PURPOSE

- This study aimed to identify a relationship between the following:
 - Patients seen for periodic dental exams
 - Patients seen for periodic dental exams who were also seen for an emergency dental exam that resulted in a tooth extraction
 - and, Patients who were only seen for an emergency dental exam that resulted in a tooth extraction

METHOD

- Patient charts from Compass Health Network's Pediatric Dental Clinic in Columbia, MO were retrospectively reviewed from the opening of the clinic in June 2023 to October 2024
- Charts were identified for review if they included one of the following:
 - An exam code for the following types of exams: Periodic exam, Comprehensive exam and Oral evaluation under the age of 3
 - A Limited problem focused exam code and an extraction code both completed on the same day
- Following collection of charts, duplicates were removed, and the remaining charts were grouped into 3 groups and represented in the compiled figures
 - Group 1: Periodic Exam and Emergency Exam with Extraction
 - Group 2: Emergency Exam and Extraction
 - Group 3: Periodic Dental Exam

FIGURES



RESULTS

- 5206 patients were seen for a dental exam between June 2023 and October 2024
- Percentage of total exams by exam type:
 - Comprehensive exams **32.7%**
 - Periodic exams **53.4%**
 - Oral Evaluation for a Patient under 3 years old **9.0%**
 - Limited oral exams **4.8%**
- Of the 4.8% limited exams
 - 36.9%** were seen for both an emergency and periodic exam
 - 63.1%** were seen for a limited exam appointment and extraction, no periodic exam

CONCLUSIONS

- This study identifies a trend that patients who are seen for periodic dental visits reduce their chance of an emergency dental visit ending in an extraction
- 63%** of patients who needed an emergency extraction had never been seen for an exam prior to the emergency visit
- While patients who need emergency treatment may be more likely to need an extraction if they are not seen for periodic exams, there is a clear need for further study. For example:
 - A broader timeframe would better demonstrate how the number of exams might relate to emergency extractions
- The study also does not address if patients were seen at another clinic, if an emergency exam was initially planned but was coded as a comprehensive exam, or if patients were seen in an Emergency Department and underwent an emergency tooth extraction

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Number of Patients by Exam Type and Treatment

