Practitioner Knowledge and Attitudes on Advocating for Smokeless Tobacco Product Cessation Among Patients

Presenting Author: Kayla Sanchez, B.S. Public Health; Principal Investigator: Rahma Mungia BDS MSc DDPHRCs, Co-principal Investigator: Moshtagh R. Farokhi DDS MPH, Co-authors: Marissa Mexquitic M.S, STOHN, Department of Periodontics

BACKGROUND

What is Smokeless Tobacco (SLT)?
- A nicotine-containing substance that is very addictive and causes adverse health effects.
- Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) is still a public health concern as it is underutilized.
- Limited research on the demographics of the population currently using it.
- A need for dental practitioners to promote SLT awareness.

METHODS

A validated practitioner survey was completed via the South Texas Oral Health Network (STOHN) portal.
- The survey assessed the dental practitioners’ knowledge of:
  - Established products among the population.
  - Potential addiction problems associated with SLT.
  - The survey also included questions about demographics of patients using SLT.

Figure 1: Advocates and non-advocates of SLT cessation.

RESULTS

Figure 2: Surveyed practitioners' knowledge of SLT cessation.

CONCLUSIONS

- Small scale practice implementation practices are used in other tobacco products.
- Some dental practitioners lack knowledge regarding the benefits of SLT cessation programs.
- There is an unaddressed need for SLT cessation programs.
- Next steps: Conducting bench assessment in the community.

CITATIONS

- [Citation 1]
- [Citation 2]
- [Citation 3]
- [Citation 4]

12th Annual Frontiers of Translational Science Research Day
What is Smokeless Tobacco (SLT)?

- A nicotine-containing substance that is VERY addictive and causes HARMFUL oral health effects

Smokeless Tobacco (SLT) is still a **public health concern** as it is understudied

- Limited research on the demographics of the population currently using it
- A need for dental practitioners to promote SLT awareness
METHODS

Active dental practitioners were recruited via South Texas Oral Health Network (STOHN) newsletter

- 6-question REDCAP Quick-poll was released
- (n=8) of completed surveys
- Anonymous responses

The survey assessed the dental practitioner's knowledge of:

- Smokeless tobacco prevalence among their patient population
- If they provide educational guidance to the patients about smokeless tobacco
RESULTS

Figure 1: Ask about patient SLT use

Figure 2: Last 30 days, Reported Use of SLT

Figure 3: Patients Aware of Oral Health Effects
### Figure 4: Types of SLT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Counts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chewing Tobacco (Loose-leaf, plug, or twist)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snuff Tobacco (moist, dry, or in packets)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dip Tobacco</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissolvable Tobacco (Lozenges, Orbs, Sticks, or Strips)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paan/ Betel quid/ Gutkha areca nut</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please describe</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure 5: Comfort Providing Smokeless Cessation

- Very comfortable: 2
- Somewhat comfortable: 1
- Not at all comfortable: 5

### Figure 6: Interest in SLT Cessation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Counts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONCLUSIONS

Smokeless tobacco is understudied compared to all other tobacco products

Some dental practitioners prioritize monitoring the usage of SLT more compared to others

There is an interest in advocating for a SLT cessation program for patients

Next step: Conducting a Needs Assessment in the community

According to the United States Census Bureau

- White: 71.9%
- Hispanic or Latino: 64.7%
- Black or African American: 6.8%
- Asian: 3.0%
- American Indian and Alaska Native: 0.7%
- Two or more races: 10.1%
- Foreign born population: 14.0%


CONTACT INFORMATION

Marissa Mexquitic, MS
Department of Periodontics
South Texas Oral Health Network
✉️ Mexquitic@uthscsa.edu

Presenter: Kayla Sanchez, BS
Practice-based Research Network Coordinator,
Department of Periodontics

South Texas Oral Health Network