

## Introduction/Background

### Sjögren's syndrome (SjS)

- The second most common systemic autoimmune disorder in the United States (US)<sup>(1)</sup>.
- Multisystem autoimmune disease
- Characterized by inflammation of exocrine glands resulting in progressive to severe oral and eye dryness, frequent complaints of fatigue, and joint pain.
- Increases risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and parotid gland marginal zone lymphoma by 6.5%–16%<sup>(2)</sup>.

### Primary (pSjS)

- Clinical manifestations occur independently.

### Secondary (sSjS)

- Associated with another autoimmune disease.

The purpose of this study was to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of dentists in managing patients with SjS.

## Material and Methods

### Quick Poll

- Cross-sectional 5- question online survey of dental practitioners,
- Members of the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network in the United States.
- Invited through emailed newsletters and social media channels.
- N=156 dental practitioners.

### Questions

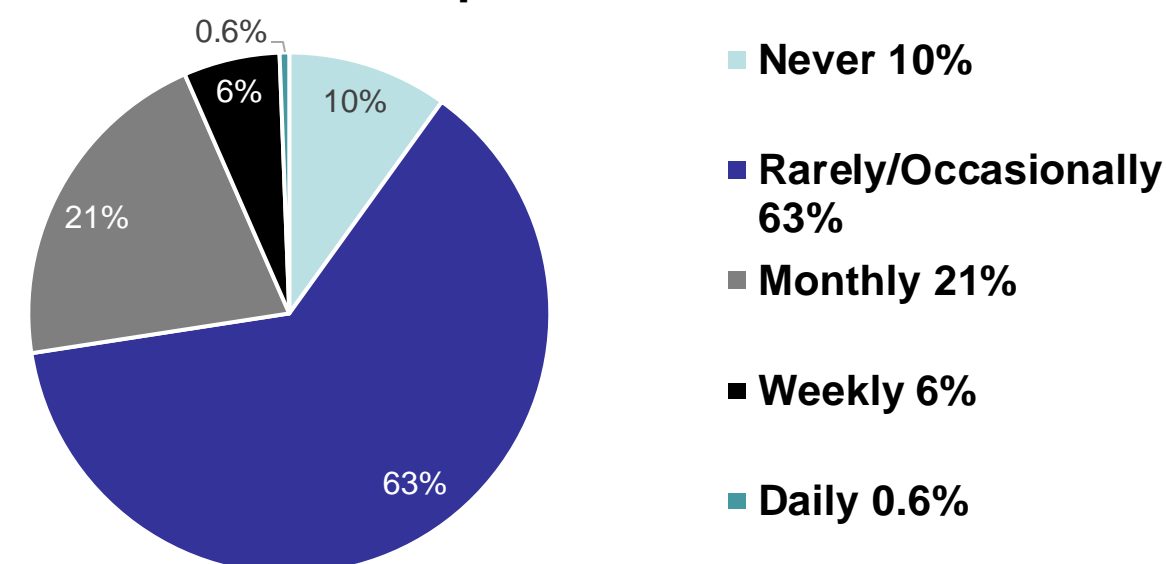
- How often they see patients with SjS,
- What signs and symptoms they notice more frequently.
- Recommended strategies to manage this condition,
- Do they coordinate care with a physician or rheumatologist.
- Interested in participating in a study examining current dental management approaches for patients with Sjögren's syndrome.

### Analysis

- Descriptive statistical analysis for frequency



### How Often You See a Patient with SjS in your practice?

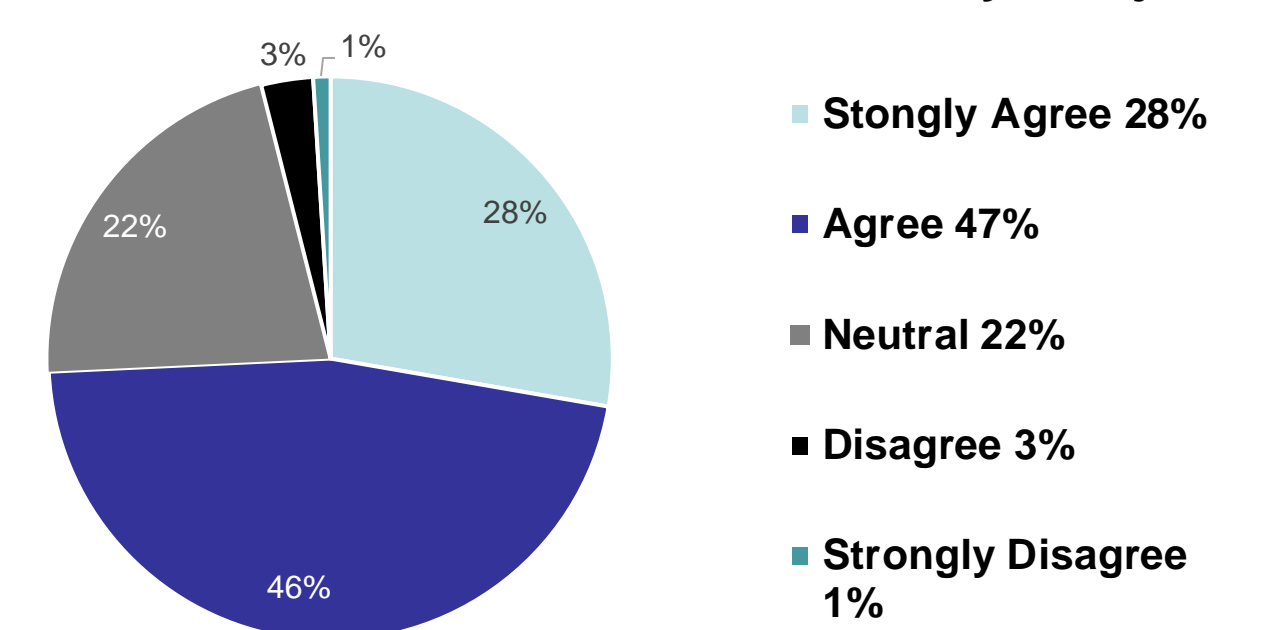


## Results

- > 90% of dentists see Sjögren's Patients
- 27% reported seeing SjS patients weekly or monthly
- > 67% recognize the most common signs and symptoms, but only 12% reported enlarged salivary glands.
- Only 33% of dentists coordinate care with SjS patients' physicians or rheumatologists.
- 75% of dentists agreed/strongly agreed a National Dental PBRN clinical study examining current dental management approaches and oral health outcomes (success/failure) in patients with SjS would be of benefit.

## Results

### % National DPBRN have a clinical study on SjS



## Conclusion

There are a vast majority of dentists seeing patients with SjS, yet the simply recommended dietary changes (hydrate, reduce sugars and carbs), social modifications (no alcohol or tobacco), attention to oral hygiene (use a soft toothbrush and prescription fluoride) and non-prescription (OTC) products (salivary substitutes).

Dentists do not coordinate care with a physician or rheumatologist even though SjS is known to be an autoimmune disorder that increases the patient's risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and parotid gland marginal zone lymphoma

Practitioners believe a National Dental PBRN clinical study examining current dental management approaches and oral health outcomes (success/failure) in patients with SjS would be beneficial.

## References

1. Carsons SE, Patel BC. Sjogren Syndrome. 2022 May 24. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan-. PMID: 28613703.
2. Hammitt KM, Naegeli AN, van den Broek RWM, Birt JA. Patient burden of Sjögren's: a comprehensive literature review revealing the range and heterogeneity of measures used in assessments of severity. RMD Open. 2017 Sep 17;3(2):e000443. doi: 10.1136/rmdopen-2017-000443. PMID: 28955493; PMCID: PMC5604724.