

# Awareness Of Parent's Attitude Towards Pulp Therapy In Primary Dentition

<sup>[1]</sup> Gayathri Lingesan, <sup>[2]</sup> Dr. Joyson Moses, <sup>[3]</sup> Dr. B. N. Rangeeth

<sup>[1]</sup> First Year Postgraduate, Department Of Pediatrics And Preventive Dentistry, Thai Moogambigai Dental College And Hospital, Chennai

<sup>[2]</sup> Head Of Department, Department Of Pediatrics And Preventive Dentistry, Thai Moogambigai Dental College And Hospital, Chennai

<sup>[3]</sup> Professor, Department Of Pediatrics And Preventive Dentistry, Thai Moogambigai Dental College And Hospital, Chennai.

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## ABSTRACT

Dental caries is one among the major dental problem affecting 60 to 90% of school children. Early and timely intervention of carious tooth of primary dentition restores the function of the teeth as well as further any complication. The purpose of this study is to explore the dental health knowledge, awareness and attitude of patient's parents towards pulp therapy of primary teeth. The study was conducted with the objective to assess the parental knowledge of the importance they give to primary teeth and to evaluate their attitudes towards management of a symptomatic primary tooth, and acceptance of preventive procedures. A set of questions with multiple-choice answers were formulated and given to parents and analyzed. The result of the study showed that most of parents were not aware of the pulp treatment procedures.

**Key words:** Pulp therapy, Parent's, Attitude, Primary teeth.

## INTRODUCTION

Healthy deciduous teeth is the foundation for healthy permanent teeth. With early loss of primary teeth can lead to ectopic eruption, disturbance of eruption sequence, drifting of erupted teeth, space loss for the successor permanent teeth, development of aberrant habits such as tongue thrusting, alterations in speech, and impairment of function (5). Hence, Maintenance of the primary teeth until the physiological exfoliation is important in children. Child oral hygiene starts at a very early stage. Parents should be educated upon the importance of primary teeth and awareness about infant diet and feeding practices, oral hygiene habits, preventive regular dental visits, care of primary teeth and concern for oral health care. Parents are the decision makers and care givers for the children (1), but the awareness among parents / caregivers about pulp treatment procedures for children is always questionable when it comes to in depth understanding of the knowledge, attitude and practices of caregivers with respect to their child's oral health. It has been found that the more positive the parent's attitude is toward dentistry, then the better will be the dental health status of their children (7).

The Aim of this study was to evaluate the Parent's attitude towards the pulp therapy in primary dentition and also to compare the Parent's attitude who have been influenced by their sibling's past dental experience.

## MATERIALS AND METHOD:

The present study was conducted in the Department of Pediatrics and preventive dentistry in Thai Moogambigai dental college in Chennai for a period of 1 month. 50 parents were participated in the study. A set of questions with multiple-choice answers were formulated. This questionnaire was personally given to the parents of the child patients. The responders were asked to tick the most appropriate answer from the list of given answers. A printed questionnaire was distributed both in English and local language for their better understanding and help was also provided to few uneducated parents to read and understand the questions. Once the questionnaire was answered, the importance of primary teeth and pulp therapy was explained. A questionnaires completed with the

responses from the parents were analysed and the data tabulated in an Excel spread sheet (MS Office ver.2016). Statistical analysis was done by using SPSS (IBM SPSS Statistics for windows, version 26.0, Armonk, NY: IBM Corp. Released 2019 ). Descriptive statistics was done to assess the frequency and percentage, chi-square test was done to find association among the number of children and number of elder children.

## DISCUSSION:

Evaluation of the results showed that (Table 1) that there was a slightly more percentage (58%) of children having their first dental Visit. The lack of awareness of the need for dental treatment was slightly greater (54%). Pain associated visits were far greater (94%) showing that preventive or the need to seek early dental care was lacking among parents though the parents did show the need to seek dental treatment (62%) for Primary teeth and this percentage could have been influenced by their presence in a Pediatric Dental Out Patient unit. 88% of parents were accepted to save the tooth by undergoing RCT /pulp therapy for the primary teeth and 14 % were not willing to undergo pulp therapy because of their knowledge towards primary teeth that it does not need of any pulp treatment since it falls. 46% accepted the pulpal treatment for the purpose of relieving the tooth pain. 32 % of parents who were reported for their child treatment had undergone pulp treatment for themselves. Only 34% of parents were aware of the pulp treatment procedures in primary dentition. Among them 32 % were aware of pulpotomy, 10% were aware of pulpectomy and 6% were aware of both the procedures.

Evaluation of (Table 2) showed that the need to seek dental management by the parents depending upon the number of children showed that there was a statistically significant number of patients who had their siblings treated had been brought to the dental

outpatient department for treatment. Parents with less than two children were willing to allow their child undergo pulp therapy (11%) and the results were statistically significant (P value <0.01) when compared with those having more siblings and the reason behind the Parent's who were not undergoing pulp therapy was mainly due to the reason that primary teeth don't need pulp treatment.

Evaluation of the result of (Table 3) showed that the association among the study participants depending upon the number of elder children. P-value <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. While assessing the P-value, almost all the questions had a statistically significant difference among the number of children present to the parents whereas statistically insignificant difference was seen among the questions related to the visit of dentist, awareness on needs for primary teeth and awareness on the dental procedure for RCT .The Graph 1 showed higher percentage of parents had less than 2 children (74%) and least among 2 or more children (26 % ).Graph 2 showed that higher percentage of parents had no elder children (54%) followed by 1 elder children(32%).

Setty JV (2016) surveyed the awareness and attitude of patients parents toward pulp therapy of the primary teeth and the result showed that the parent's visit to the dentists is mostly in case of acute needs with pain and associated features especially in the primary teeth (2). Pediatric endodontics deals with preserving and restoring the tooth structure by treating the carious tooth with various treatment modalities such as Pulp capping, Pulpotomy, Pulpectomy, Apexification and Apexogenesis. Dental caries in deciduous teeth can affect the child's growth, resulting in significant pain which can cause life threatening infections & diminish overall quality of life.(6)

Pediatric dentists play a dual role in the provision of professional preventive and therapeutic oral health care, which includes both primary and specialty care services. Infant oral health care is the foundation on which a lifetime of preventive education and dental care can be built up in order to help acquire optimal oral health into child and adulthood. These conditions indicate the need for a more in-depth understanding of the health beliefs and practices of caregivers with respect to their children's oral health care. Mothers' oral health knowledge and attitude, in particular, influence oral health of their children at an early age. For example, if the parent brushes his/her teeth twice a day, their children will also be positively influenced to brush their teeth twice a day. Hence, In the early childhood years, parent's influence the child's development.

Al Shuraiqi et al (2016) showed in a study that when parents were asked about their perception regarding the need for any dental treatment to save pulpally involved primary teeth, a high percentage (85%) of parents believed that there is need for pulp therapy for primary teeth. Parental knowledge of primary teeth appears to have a direct effect on oral health of child (3). Schroth et al (2007) showed in a study that parents who believed baby teeth were important had children with significantly lower caries rates than those who believed otherwise. Thus, it becomes very important to take proper care of deciduous teeth and treat them timely to avoid premature loss(4)

## **CONCLUSION:**

The study concluded that Parents attitude towards the dental treatment of primary dentition is limited. It is important to educate the parent's about the need of dental examination and to follow a regular routine dental check-up. Improvement of knowledge in this regard is of utmost importance for long term maintenance and improvement of healthy dentition

for children.

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# LIST OF TABLES

**TABLE 1: AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE OF PATIENT'S PARENTS TOWARD PULP THERAPY OF THE PRIMARY TEETH AMONG THE STUDY PARTICIPANTS**

| S.No | QUESTIONNAIRE  | OPTIONS                      | Study participants<br>(n-50) |                |
|------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
|      |  |                              | Frequency(n)                 | Percentage (%) |
| 1.   | Is this your first dental visit  | Yes                          | 29                           | 58.0           |
|      |  | No                           | 21                           | 42.0           |
| 2.   | Are you aware of any Dental treatments of child and need for children        | Yes                          | 23                           | 46.0           |
|      |  | No                           | 27                           | 54.0           |
| 3.   | When would you visit the dental Hospital                                     | Pain and associated features | 47                           | 94.0           |
|      |  | Routine dental check-up      | 1                            | 2.0            |
|      |  | Trauma                       | 2                            | 4.0            |
|      |  | Discoloration                |                              |                |
| 4.   | Do you think Primary teeth needs dental treatment                            | Yes                          | 31                           | 62.0           |
|      |  | No                           | 19                           | 38.0           |
| 5.   | If the bad tooth can be saved- will you accept to undergo RCT / pulp therapy | Yes                          | 44                           | 88.0           |
|      |  | No                           | 6                            | 12.0           |

|     |   |   |    |      |
|-----|---|---|----|------|
| 6.  | If No, What will be your reason for not willing to undergo Pulp therapy | Prolonged duration of the procedure     | 5  | 10.0 |
|     |   | Expensive                               | 2  | 4.0  |
|     |   | Primary teeth don't need pulp treatment | 7  | 14.0 |
|     |   | No of dental visit                      | 1  | 2.0  |
| 7.  | Do you know why pulp treatment is important in primary teeth            | Relives pain                            | 23 | 46.0 |
|     |   | Preserve esthetics                      | 3  | 6.0  |
|     |   | Maintains space in arch                 | 6  | 12.0 |
|     |   | Don't know                              | 18 | 36.0 |
| 8.  | Did you ever had pulp treatment in your teeth                           | <b>Yes</b>                              | 16 | 32.0 |
|     |   | No                                      | 34 | 68.0 |
| 9.  | Are you aware of any pulp treatment procedures                          | <b>Yes</b>                              | 17 | 34.0 |
|     |   | No                                      | 33 | 66.0 |
| 10. | If Yes, what is the procedures  | Pulpectomy                              | 5  | 10.0 |
|     |   | Pulpotomy                               | 16 | 32.0 |
|     |   | Both a and b                            | 3  | 6.0  |

**TABLE 2: ASSOCIATION AMONG THE STUDY PARTICIPANTS DEPENDING UPON THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN**

| S.No | QUESTIONNAIRRE   | OPTIONS                                 | LESS THAN 2 CHILD | 2 OR MORE CHILD | P-value |
|------|--|---|-------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1.   | Is this your first dental visit  | Yes                                     | 20                | 9               | 0.028*  |
|      |  | No                                      | 17                | 4               |         |
| 2.   | Are you aware of any Dental treatments of child and need for children        | Yes                                     | 17                | 6               | 0.048*  |
|      |  | No                                      | 20                | 7               |         |
| 3.   | When would you visit the dental Hospital                                     | Pain and associated features            | 35                | 12              | 0.029*  |
|      |  | Routine dental check-up                 | 1                 | 0               |         |
|      |  | Trauma                                  | 1                 | 1               |         |
|      |  | Discoloration                           | 0                 | 0               |         |
| 4.   | Do you think Primary teeth needs dental treatment                            | Yes                                     | 26                | 5               | <0.01*  |
|      |  | No                                      | 11                | 8               |         |
| 5.   | If the bad tooth can be saved- will you accept to undergo RCT / pulp therapy | Yes                                     | 33                | 11              | 0.043*  |
|      |  | No                                      | 4                 | 2               |         |
| 6.   | If No, What will be your reason for not willing to undergo Pulp therapy      | Prolonged duration of the procedure     | 5                 | 0               | 0.079   |
|      |  | Expensive                               | 1                 | 1               |         |
|      |  | Primary teeth don't need pulp treatment | 6                 | 1               |         |

|     |  | No of dental visit      | 0  | 1 |        |
|-----|--|-------------------------|----|---|--------|
| 7.  | Do you know why pulp treatment is important in primary teeth | Relives pain            | 17 | 2 | 0.043* |
|     |  | Preserve esthetics      | 3  | 0 |        |
|     |  | Maintains space in arch | 5  | 3 |        |
|     |  | Don't know              | 12 | 4 |        |
| 8.  | Did you ever had pulp treatment in your teeth                | <b>Yes</b>              | 12 | 4 | 0.047* |
|     |  | No                      | 25 | 9 |        |
| 9.  | Are you aware of any pulp treatment procedures               | <b>Yes</b>              | 13 | 4 | 0.043* |
|     |  | No                      | 24 | 9 |        |
| 10. | If Yes, what is the procedures                               | Pulpectomy              | 3  | 2 | 0.061  |
|     |  | Pulpotomy               | 13 | 3 |        |
|     |  | Both a and b            | 3  | 0 |        |



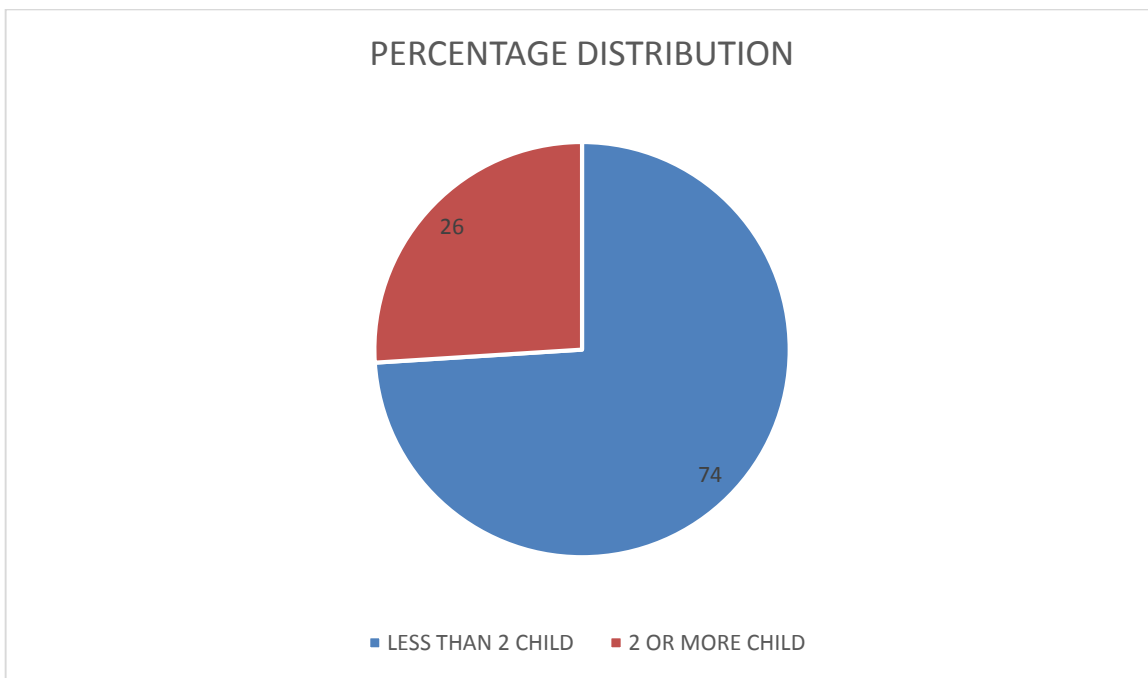
**TABLE 3: ASSOCIATION AMONG THE STUDY PARTICIPANTS DEPENDING UPON THE NUMBER OF ELDER CHILD**

| S.No | QUESTIONA<br>IRRE   | OPTIONS                            | 0 Elder | 1<br>Eld<br>er | 2<br>El<br>de<br>r | 4 Elder | P-value |
|------|---|------------------------------------|---------|----------------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| 1.   | Is this your<br>first dental<br>visit   | Yes                                | 18      | 8              | 3                  | 0       | 0.068   |
|      |   | No                                 | 9       | 8              | 2                  | 2       |         |
| 2.   | Are you aware<br>of any Dental<br>treatments of<br>child and need<br>for children | Yes                                | 15      | 3              | 3                  | 2       | 0.037*  |
|      |   | No                                 | 12      | 13             | 2                  | 0       |         |
| 3.   | When would<br>you visit the<br>dental Hospital                                    | Pain and<br>associated<br>features | 26      | 14             | 5                  | 2       | 0.017*  |
|      |   | Routine<br>dental check-<br>up     | 1       | 0              | 0                  | 0       |         |
|      |   | Trauma                             | 0       | 2              | 0                  | 0       |         |
|      |   | Discoloration                      | 0       | 0              | 0                  | 0       |         |
| 4.   | Do you think<br>Primary teeth<br>needs dental<br>treatment                        | Yes                                | 16      | 12             | 3                  | 2       | 0.092   |
|      |   | No                                 | 11      | 4              | 2                  | 0       |         |
| 5.   | If the bad tooth<br>can be saved-<br>will you accept<br>to undergo                | Yes                                | 23      | 14             | 5                  | 2       | 0.045*  |
|      |   | No                                 | 4       | 2              | 0                  | 0       |         |

|    |   |   |    |    |   |   |        |
|----|---|---|----|----|---|---|--------|
|    | RCT / pulp therapy  |   |    |    |   |   |        |
| 6. | If No, What will be your reason for not willing to undergo Pulp therapy | Prolonged duration of the procedure     | 3  | 2  | 0 | 0 | 0.073  |
|    |   | Expensive                               | 2  | 0  | 0 | 0 |        |
|    |   | Primary teeth don't need pulp treatment | 4  | 3  | 0 | 0 |        |
|    |   | No of dental visit                      | 1  | 0  | 0 | 0 |        |
| 7. | Do you know why pulp treatment is important in primary teeth            | Relives pain                            | 12 | 9  | 2 | 0 | 0.049* |
|    |   | Preserve esthetics                      | 2  | 1  | 0 | 0 |        |
|    |   | Maintains space in arch                 | 4  | 1  | 1 | 0 |        |
|    |   | Don't know                              | 9  | 5  | 2 | 2 |        |
| 8. | Did you ever had pulp treatment in your teeth                           | <b>Yes</b>                              | 9  | 6  | 0 | 1 | 0.042* |
|    |   | No                                      | 18 | 10 | 5 | 1 |        |
| 9. | Are you aware of any pulp treatment procedures                          | <b>Yes</b>                              | 11 | 4  | 2 | 0 | 0.069  |
|    |   | No                                      | 16 | 12 | 3 | 2 |        |
| 10 | If Yes, what is the procedures  | Pulpectomy                              | 3  | 0  | 2 | 0 | 0.081  |

|  |  |              |   |   |   |   |
|--|--|--------------|---|---|---|---|
|  |  | Pulpotomy    | 9 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
|  |  | Both a and b | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

**GRAPH 1: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN AMONG THE PARENTS INCLUDED IN THE STUDY**



**GRAPH 2: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF ELDER CHILDREN AMONG THE PARENTS INCLUDED IN THE STUDY**

