

Patterns of posterior dental restorations analyzed in privately insured Americans

March 17 2023



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A study aiming to provide estimates of current dental amalgam placement in order to guide policy in the context of evolving materials/techniques as well as national phase down commitment was

presented at the 52nd Annual Meeting & Exhibition of the AADOCR, held in conjunction with the 47th Annual Meeting of the CADR. The AADOCR/CADR Annual Meeting & Exhibition took place at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland on March 15-18, 2023.

The study, conducted by Laura Eldridge of the American Dental Association, calculated the amalgam and composite posterior restoration numbers between 2017-2019 using dental claims data for privately insured patients. Kruskal-Wallis and multivariable negative binomial regression models tested differences in rates of amalgam and composite placement by age group, gender, urban/rural, and percent race/ethnicity in the area. Statistical significance was set at 0.05, with Benjamini-Hochberg correction for false discovery rate.

The study found that the rate of amalgam restorations declined over time from a mean of 6.29 per 100 patients in 2017 to 4.78 per 100 patients in 2019, while composite rate increased from 2.76 per 100 patients in 2017 to 2.88 per 100 in 2019. Mean number of amalgams placed per person were lower in females compared to males, urban compared to [rural areas](#), and areas with >75% non-Hispanic White residents. The odds of having higher counts of amalgam restorations were lower 2018-2019 compared to 2017, females compared to males, rural compared to [urban areas](#), and higher for any group that was not >75% non-Hispanic White. The majority (51.8%) of dental patients aged

Citation: Patterns of posterior dental restorations analyzed in privately insured Americans (2023, March 17) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-03-patterns-posterior-dental-privately-americans.html>

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