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Pediatric Dentists' Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Silver Diamine Fluoride

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Objectives Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is a minimally invasive treatment approach for arresting carious lesions. The aim of this study was to evaluate the educational experiences, attitudes and behaviours of pediatric dentists (PD) towards SDF, one of the current treatment approaches among.

Methods For the cross-sectional survey, a 24-question questionnaire was sent via email to pediatric dentists who are among the 950 members of the Turkish Pedodontic Association (TPA) between March 2023 and November 2023.

Results Responses were received from 201 members (175 women and 26 men) (response rate 22.2%). The mean age of the most of participants (51%) was between 20-29. All respondents reported that they were familiar with SDF prior to participating in the survey. The majority, 145(72.1%) of PD, had not previously applied SDF. 163(81%) PD agreed/strongly agreed that SDF could be implemented in a short time. 176(87.5%) PD agreed or strongly agreed that SDF may be a good treatment option for patients with severe dental anxiety. 88(43%) PD agreed or strongly agreed that SDF a good treatment alternative for patients needing general anesthesia for dental treatment. 172(85.5%) PD were considering using SDF in the future. 163(81%) PD believed that they needed more training on SDF.

Conclusions These findings indicate that PD perceive SDF therapy as effective, simple, painless, and non-invasive. However, these results suggest a need for expanded education on the proper use and benefits of SDF. Such education may increase the likelihood of PD utilizing SDF.