

INTRODUCTION

Pediatric patients with special healthcare needs have a high risk of oral and dental diseases throughout their lives. Oral health in patients with special needs has represented a challenge for dentists throughout history, since the different physical and cognitive disabilities limit the adequate removal of dental bacterial plaque, leading to the development of high prevalence oral diseases in this population. Behavioral management of pediatric patients with special healthcare needs can be challenging. The purpose of this study is to learn and evaluate the knowledge and attitudes of the members of the Dominican Society of Dentistry for Children (SODONI) regarding behavioral management of pediatric patients with special healthcare needs.

OBJECTIVES

General objective:

-Evaluate the knowledge and attitudes of behavioral management of pediatric patients with special healthcare needs of SODONI members.

Specific objectives:

-Determine which management technique is used by SODONI members in pediatric patients with special healthcare needs.

-Identify the most frequent challenges in the treatment of pediatric patients with special healthcare needs presented in the dental office of the SODONI members.

METHODS & MATERIALS

Research method

- The research method used was the quasi-experimental, which consists of a type of research halfway between experimental research and observational research. Its most relevant characteristic is that the experimental groups are not selected randomly, but already formed groups are chosen. It is based on a descriptive methodology and some quantitative and qualitative elements, and is used to study different behaviors, social variables, among others.

Population and sample

- The Dominican Society of Dentistry for Children (SODONI) consists of 95 members. The sample is made up of 42 active members, who would voluntarily come to participate.

Data Collection Instruments

- Virtual Survey: Based on defined study objectives, closed questions were structured addressed to 42 pediatric dentists who are active members of the Dominican Society of Dentistry for Children (SODONI) utilizing the survey administration software: Google forms.
- As secondary sources: articles, journals, among others.

Procedures for Data Processing and Analysis

- Considering that data analysis was used to describe, analyze, synthesize and understand the set of data collected. Therefore, the data obtained was analyzed by the statistical system of Google forms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Carry out certified additional training courses for the management of pediatric patients with special healthcare needs based on the advanced behavior guide, described by the American Association of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD).
- Carry out 4-hand dental practices with adequately trained assistance in the behavioral management of pediatric patients with special healthcare needs.
- Develop periodic studies on the management of behavioral techniques to treat pediatric patients with special healthcare needs in different dental centers.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

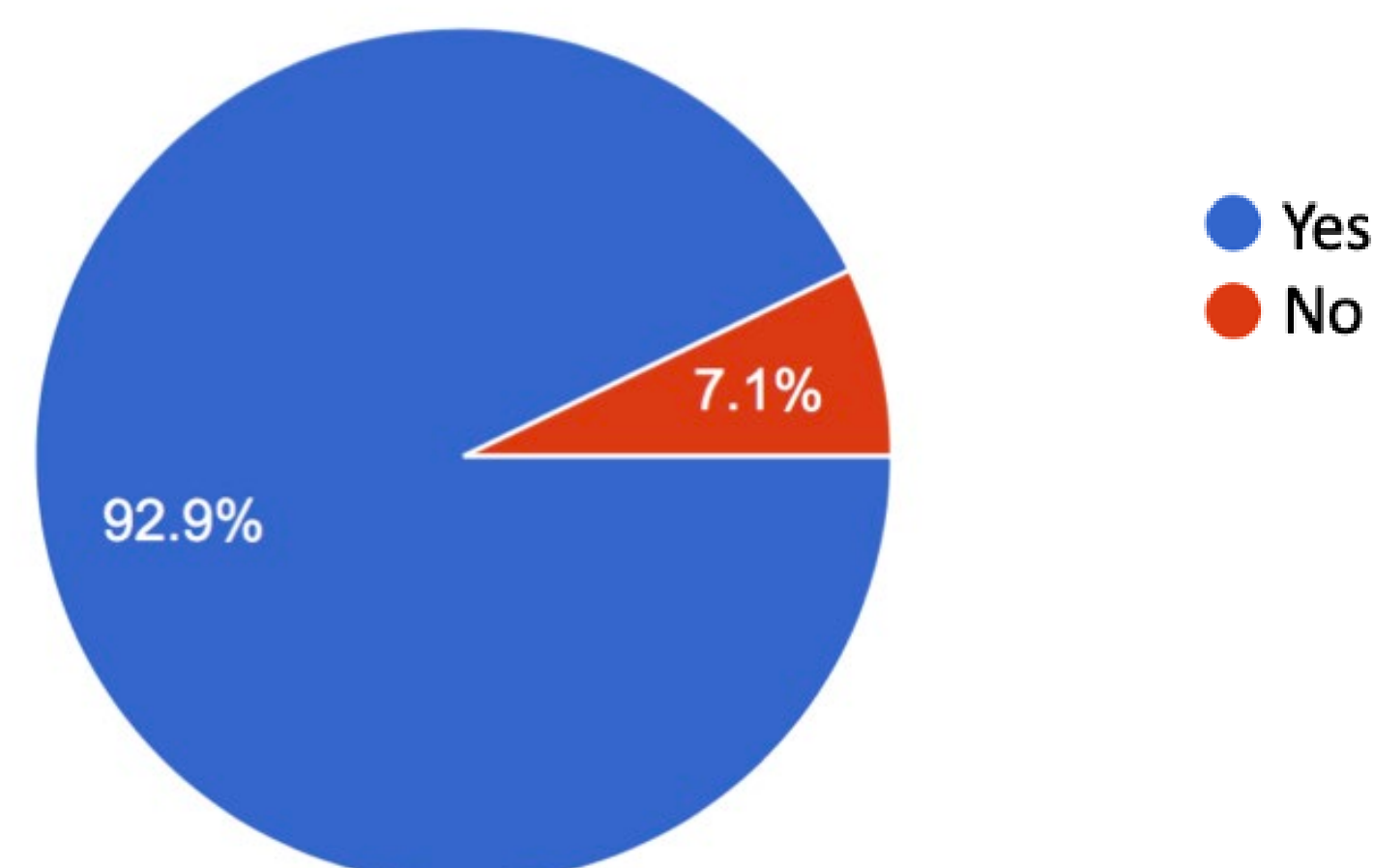


FIGURE 1: Knowledge of management protocols for the treatment of pediatric patients with special healthcare needs.

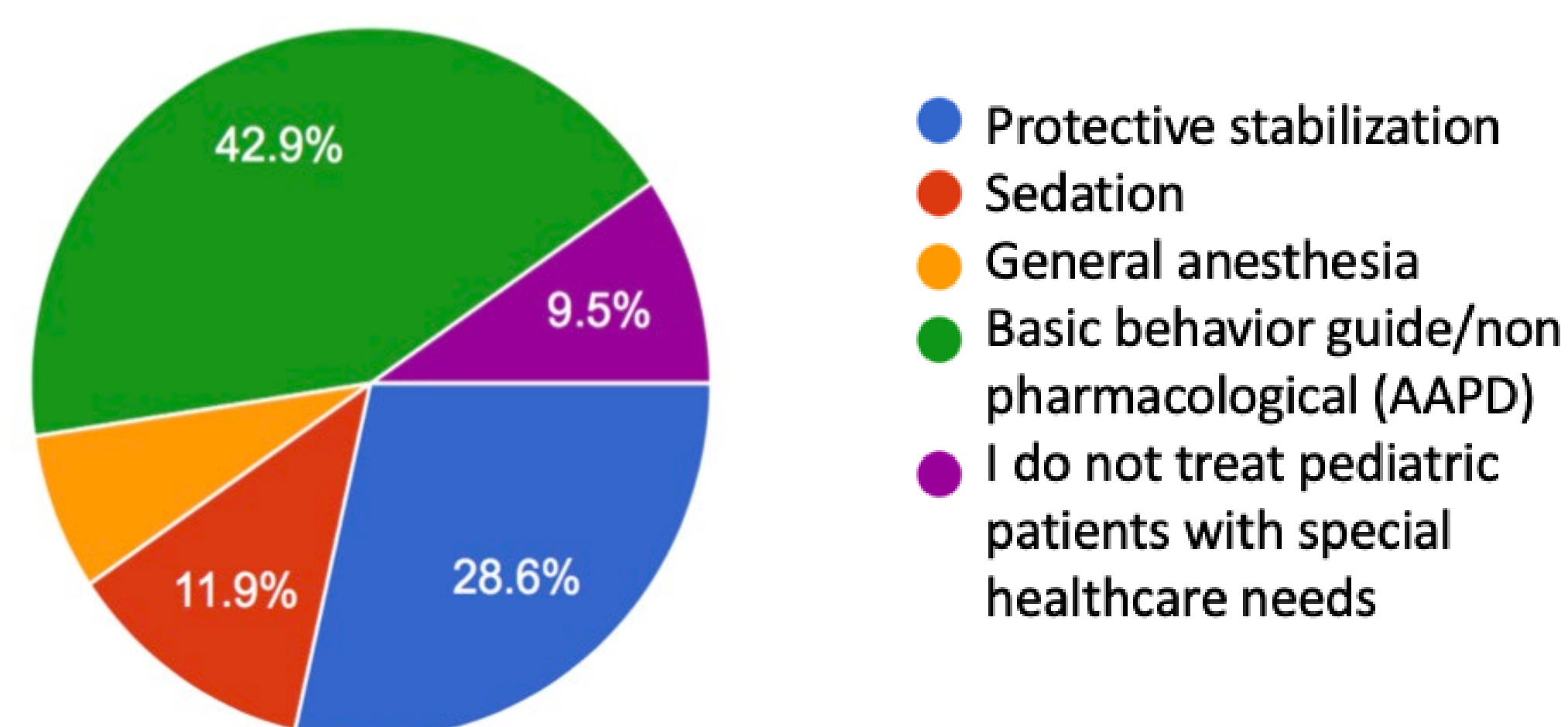


FIGURE 2: Most used behavior management technique for the treatment of pediatric patients with special healthcare needs.

- Most of the respondents know management protocols to treat pediatric patients with special healthcare needs. Unlike the study carried out by Doichinova et al.¹ and another study carried out by Rajan et al.², which confirm that the majority of those surveyed do not have knowledge about any management protocol.
- The majority use basic behavior guidance techniques (non-pharmacological) from the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). These data are consistent with a study conducted by Adyanthaya et al.³, In addition, it is consistent with the study by Abraham et al.⁴ and with the study by Rajan et al.²
- The most frequent difficulties while providing treatment is poor behavior and communication with patients.

CONCLUSION

It was determined that most of the respondents, members of the Dominican Society of Dentistry for Children (SODONI), know management protocols to treat pediatric patients with special healthcare needs and use the Reference Manual for procedures in Pediatric Dentistry of the Latin American Association of Pediatric Dentistry (ALOP), followed by the management protocol for treatment of pediatric patients with special healthcare needs as outlined by the American Association of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD). The non-pharmacological management was the most used technique by the respondents.

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