

State of the Art Statement

Question: What do dentists mean by 'prevention' when applied to what they do in their practices?

Answer: The results of the critical appraisal conclude that there is a lack of evidence relating to dentists' perceptions of prevention and its application in practice.

The literature found that historically preventive activity was mainly related to clinical use of preventive products such as fluoride. Fissure sealants and fluoride mouthrinsing advice remain popular, along with advice for interdental cleaning and use of fluoride toothpaste.

Qualitative primary research is needed to look at UK dentists' views and attitudes relating to their understanding of prevention and its application in practice.

Further info: You can access the full evidence summary relating to this question via our website www.dentistryresearch.org