

## The Familiarity of Latin American Dentists with ART: a Quantitative Analysis

*Location: Exhibit Hall D (Miami Beach Convention Center)*

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**Objectives:** to evaluate the knowledge of Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART), and associated factors, among dentists in the public health services of three Latin American countries (Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay). **Methods:** This was a cross-sectional and descriptive study, where the dentists were invited, during their participation in a dentistry event in 2008, promoted by a health service in which they were employed. The dentists answered a questionnaire with seven closed questions on the concepts of ART. The sample was composed of 434 questionnaires (119 from Brazil, 102 from Argentina, and 213 from Paraguay). The answers were categorized according to the number of those that were correct: Excellent (E), for 7 correct replies; Sufficient (S) for 5 or 6 correct replies; and Insufficient (I) for 0 to 4 correct replies. We used the Chi-square test to compare the performance of the dentists among the three countries ( $p < 0.05$ ). **Results:** There was a predominance of insufficient knowledge among the dentists regarding ART, and it lacked statistically significant differences among the three countries evaluated, except for Paraguay, which had a performance (E) ranking lower than those of Brazil and Argentina ( $p < 0.001$ ). The performances were: Brazil – 52.10% (I), 36.14% (S), and only 11.76% (E); Argentina – 47.70% (I), 41.30% (S), and only 11% (E); and Paraguay – 60% (I), 38.60% (S), and only 1.40% (E). **Conclusions:** The dentists who were studied showed an insufficient degree of knowledge to perform ART, and it is important that ART workshops be immediately introduced in the public health services in these countries. It is necessary that the relevant aspects of ART be studied, allowing for professional performance in the context of the philosophy of Minimal and Maximal Intervention, basic principles of dentistry today.