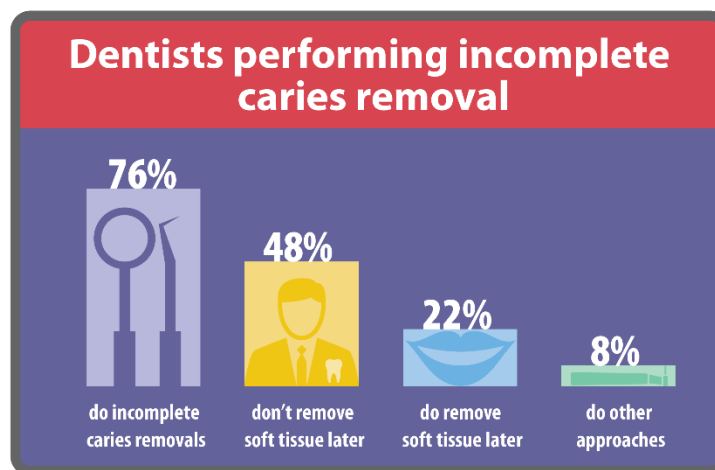


Quick Poll Results: Dentists Weigh In on Incomplete Caries Removal

Most dentists will leave some infected tissue before doing a restoration when they think removing it would expose the pulp, our November Quick Poll shows. Of the 400 poll respondents, 76 percent said they had done an incomplete caries removal. This reverses a long-standing practice in dentistry of removing all bacteria and infected dental tissues before restoring the resulting cavity.¹

As part of the restoration following an incomplete caries removal, 80 percent of respondents used some form of base or liner, with glass ionomer being the most popular choice. How respondents treated the tooth after the initial restoration varied. Almost half (48 percent) said they didn't remove the soft tissue later, while 22 percent said they did.



Slightly more than half of respondents perform incomplete caries removal every month for at least one patient. Only 4 percent said they did the procedure for 6 to 10 patients per month.

Growing evidence supports incomplete removal of carious tissue,² but its success rate is still unclear.³

Some practitioners said they perform incomplete caries removal on either primary teeth or a newly erupted permanent tooth. Others said they place silver diamine fluoride on the decay.

To continue the conversation about incomplete caries, please visit the Quick Polls Results thread in the [Member Forum](#).

¹ Schwendicke F, Dörfer CE, Paris S. [Incomplete caries removal](#). *Dental Abstracts*. 2014;59(2):104-105.

² Schwendicke F, Dörfer CE, Paris S. [Incomplete caries removal](#). *Dental Abstracts*. 2014;59(2):104-105.

³ Schwendicke F, Schweigel H, Petrou MA, Santamaria R, Hopfenmüller W, Finke C, Paris S. [Selective or stepwise removal of deep caries in deciduous molars: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial](#). *Trials*. 2015;16:11.