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Treatment preferences for irreversible pulpitis

Submission date
13/04/2026

Recruitment status
Recruiting

Registration date
14/04/2026

Overall study status
Ongoing

Last Edited
18/08/2026

Condition category
Oral Health

[X] Prospectively registered
[X] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[_] Results
[_] Individual participant data
[X] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
This study aims to help adults understand a dental problem called irreversible pulpitis and decide on their preferred treatment. Irreversible pulpitis is a painful condition where the inside of a tooth gets inflamed and can't heal on its own. Two different tools, called Patient Decision Aids, have been created to make it easier for patients to learn about this condition and make informed choices. One Patient Decision Aid includes health educational comics, while the other does not. These comics are designed to make the information more engaging and easier to understand.

Who can participate?
Adult patients attending routine appointments to the Dundee dental hospital.

What does the study involve?
Participants will be randomly assigned to use one of the two Patient Decision Aids. After using the Patient Decision Aid, they will fill out a questionnaire to see how well they understand the disease and if the information helps them decide on a treatment.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
The results from the two groups will be compared to find out if the comics make a difference in helping patients understand irreversible pulpitis and make better treatment decisions.

There are no known risks of harm associated with participation in this study. Participants will be asked to review information and complete a small number of questionnaires. Participation is voluntary, and individuals may withdraw at any time without providing a reason by informing a member of the research team. Withdrawal will not affect current or future dental care or any future appointments at the Dental Hospital.

Where is the study run from?
Dundee Dental Hospital and Research School, University of Dundee, Scotland, UK.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
April 2026 to January 2028.

Who is funding the study?
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Who is the main contact?
Dr Thibault Colloc, tcolloc001@dundee.ac.uk

Contact information

Type(s)
Principal investigator, Public, Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)
343640

Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS)
72297

Protocol number
2-062-25

Study information

Scientific Title
Treatment preferences for the management of irreversible Pulpitis (TIP): comparing two prototypes of a patient decision aid for shared decision making: a pilot randomised control study

Acronym
TIP STUDY

Study objectives
To evaluate, in an adult population without the disease (Participants), the effectiveness of a PDA with health educational comics (Intervention) compared to a PDA without such comics (Control Comparator) in informing patients about irreversible pulpitis disease and its management and

helping them prepare to make informed decisions for treatment (Outcomes). To achieve this, the patients consenting to take part will be randomised to one PDA or the other and will complete a validated questionnaire exploring the acceptability of the PDA, their understanding of the disease and whether the information provided would help them make a decision for treatment (Statistical Design).

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 16/01/2026, London - Bromley Research Ethics Committee (2 Redman Place, Stratford, London, E20 1JQ, United Kingdom; +44 0207 104 8000; bromley.rec@hra.nhs.uk), ref: 25/PR/1635

Primary study design
Interventional

Allocation
Randomized controlled trial

Masking
Open (masking not used)

Control
Active

Assignment
Parallel

Purpose
Health services research

Study type(s)

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Management of severe or irreversible pulpitis

Interventions
Two patient decision aids (PDA) were co-designed to help patients with decision-making about the management of irreversible pulpitis in permanent teeth. Both PDAs include the same information, except one of the PDA includes a health education comics, whereas the other one does not. The method of randomisation uses an external randomisation software platform called “Sealed envelopes” (https://www.sealedenvelope.com/). Participants will be allocated to one PDA or the other with 1:1 randomisation allocation. Once the participants have had the opportunity to read the allocated PDA, they will be asked to complete a questionnaire including a preparation for decision-making scale section (primary outcome) and a knowledge and acceptability section (secondary outcomes).

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
1. Effectiveness of the Patient Decision Aids (PDA) in preparing patients to make a decision regarding the management of irreversible pulpitis measured using the Preparation for Decision Making (PrepDM) scale at following recruitment and review of the allocated PDA

Key secondary outcome(s)
1. Acceptability of the PDAs measured using Acceptability questionnaire at Following recruitment and review of the allocated PDA

2. Patients' understanding and knowledge of irreversible pulpitis disease and its management measured using a Knowledge questionnaire at following recruitment and review of the allocated PDA

Completion date
07/01/2028

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Adult patients (18 years and older)
2. Able to consent
3. Attending for routine or new patient appointments at the Dundee Dental Hospital and Research School

Healthy volunteers allowed
Yes

Age group
Mixed

Lower age limit
18 Years

Upper age limit
120 Years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
0

Key exclusion criteria
1. Patients attending with emergency treatment needs (e.g. pulpitis, pain, infection)
2. Unable to read and/or understand written English

Date of first enrolment
28/04/2026

Date of final enrolment

05/05/2027

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

Scotland

Study participating centre
Dundee Dental Hospital
2 Park Place
Dundee
Scotland
DD1 4HR

Sponsor information

Organisation
University of Dundee

ROR
https://ror.org/03h2bxq36

Funder(s)

Funder type

Funder Name
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow

Alternative Name(s)
The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow, RCPSGlasgow, Facultie, Facultie of Chyrurgeons and Physitians, Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, RCPSG, RFPSG

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Universities (academic only)

Location
United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not expected to be made available

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet	version 2.0	07/01/2026	13/04/2026	No	Yes
Protocol file	version 2.0	07/01/2026	13/04/2026	No	No