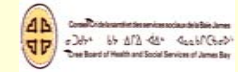




## A group-randomized caries-prevention trial for Cree children: baseline measures compared



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### Introduction

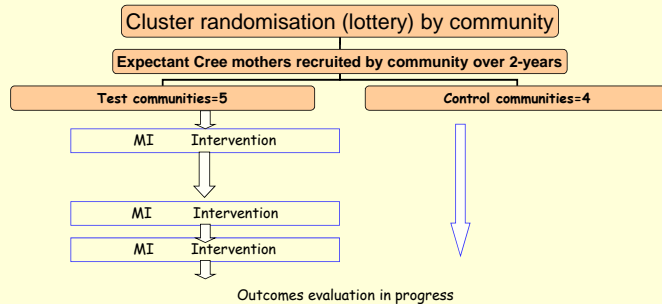
- Early childhood caries (ECC) is a serious health problem for First Nations children. (Saunderson S, 2000). ECC can affect children before their first birthday, and can be a painful condition, influencing a child's ability to eat properly, sleep through the night, grow and develop normally, and thus achieve full potential. (Ripa LW 1999; Low W, Tan S, Schwartz S, 1999)
- This project was initiated among the Cree Nation living in the James Bay region lies to the east and southeast of James Bay in Quebec. The Cree have inhabited this region, Eeyou Istchee, since the glaciers left about 5,000 years ago. Cree now number some 12,500 people and live in nine distinct settlements from which they hunt approximately 375,000 square kilometers of land.

#### Primary research question:

- Is there any difference in the dental health status of young Cree children whose mothers have participated in a client-centred, one-on-one, preventive counseling intervention, Motivational Interviewing (MI), and children whose mothers received oral health information in the form of an educational pamphlet?

**Objective:** Baseline characteristics of participating mothers will be presented and compared.

### Study design



### Methods

Maternal baseline data:

- demographics
- dental knowledge
- oral hygiene practices
- dental health of other children.

### Results

All mothers, N=272

Variable	All mothers
Mean (SD) age	25.6 (6.1) years
Stage of pregnancy (SD)	20.2 (10.7) weeks
Subjects with other children	65.1%
Mothers with a child who had a tooth extracted	42.0%
Knowledge questions mean score/5 (SD)	3.0 (1.3)
Brushing with F- toothpaste	92.3%
Saw a dentist <2 years ago	72.7%

#### Comparison of test and control mothers

Variable	Test = 131	Control = 141
Mean age	25.5 years	25.6 years
Stage of pregnancy	22.4 weeks	17.7 weeks
Subjects with other children	64.3 %	65.6 %
Mothers with a child who had a tooth extracted	34.1 %	48.9 %
Knowledge questions: mean score/5	3.1	2.9
Brushing with F- toothpaste	92.3 %	92.2 %
Saw a dentist <2 years ago	71.5 %	73.8 %

### Discussion

- Comparison of test and control groups revealed that the arms of the trial were well-balanced on most but not all measures
- Differences between groups in
  - proportion of mothers with another child who previously had a tooth extracted
  - stage of pregnancy.

### Conclusions

- The likelihood is high that baseline variables will be unevenly split in group-randomized trials when the number of groups is small.
- Control for differences in baseline variables will be required in the analysis.

Related oral presentation: Sequence 281. Caries Prevention & Risk Assessment, Oral Health Quality of Life.

#2994 A caries-prevention trial for Cree children: challenges of subject recruitment.

Saturday, July 5 @ 11:00 a.m., Room 709

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