

# The Association Between Intensive Parenting Attitudes and Topical Fluoride Opposition

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## Background

- Topical fluoride is safe and effective
- Topical fluoride opposition is a growing clinical problem
- Intensive parenting attitudes may influence a caregiver's decision about topical fluoride
- No studies exist on how intensive parenting attitudes influence topical fluoride opposition.

## Purpose

To investigate the association between intensive parenting attitudes and topical fluoride opposition for their children.

## Methods

- Secondary data analysis
- 85-item survey administered through United States (November 2020 – September 2021)
- Main outcome variable: caregiver's topical fluoride opposition for their child
- Main explanatory variable: intensive parenting attitudes
- Statistical analysis: Linear regression adjusting for caregiver age and caregiver education level.

## Results

**After adjusting for confounders, a 1-point increase in average intensive parenting attitudes score was significantly associated with a 0.26-point increase in topical fluoride opposition score (P-value<0.001)**

## Conclusions

- Intensive parenting attitudes is significantly and positively associated with topical fluoride opposition
- Clinicians can address caregivers' concerns with tailored communication strategies (motivational interviewing, active listening) to provide appropriate risk-based recommendations
- Future research is needed to determine effective communication strategies based on caregiver's level of intensive parenting attitudes and level of engagement in discussion.

## References

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