

Introduction

- The prescription of antibiotic prophylaxis for routine dental implant placement is common among dental practitioners. However, a consensus on the prescription protocol for the prevention of postoperative complications has been poorly documented in literature.
- This study aims to analyze the current pattern of prophylactic antibiotic prescription that general dentists and dental specialists in California employ.

Methods

- Using a cross-sectional survey, the antibiotic prescription practices among dental professions affiliated with various dental organizations were collected for routine dental implant placements. The sample included dentists from the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), California Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (CALAOMS), California Dental Association (CDA), California Society of Periodontists (CSP), Academy of Osseointegration (AO), and others.
- Dentists were sent an anonymous electronic survey which queried about their preferences regarding antibiotic prescription, including the timing of antibiotic administration (pre- and post-operation), indications, choice of antibiotics, dosage regimens, and the duration of treatment.

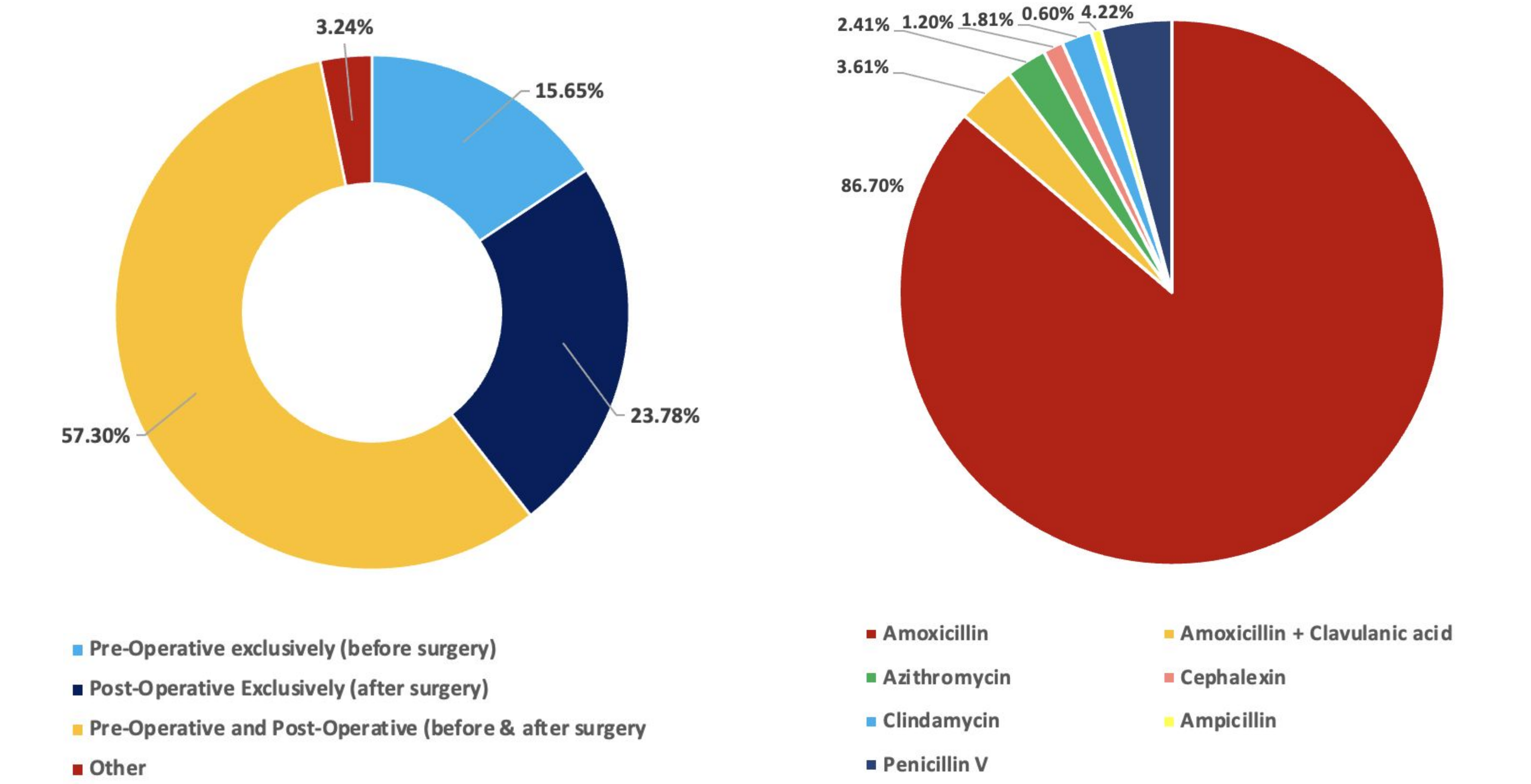
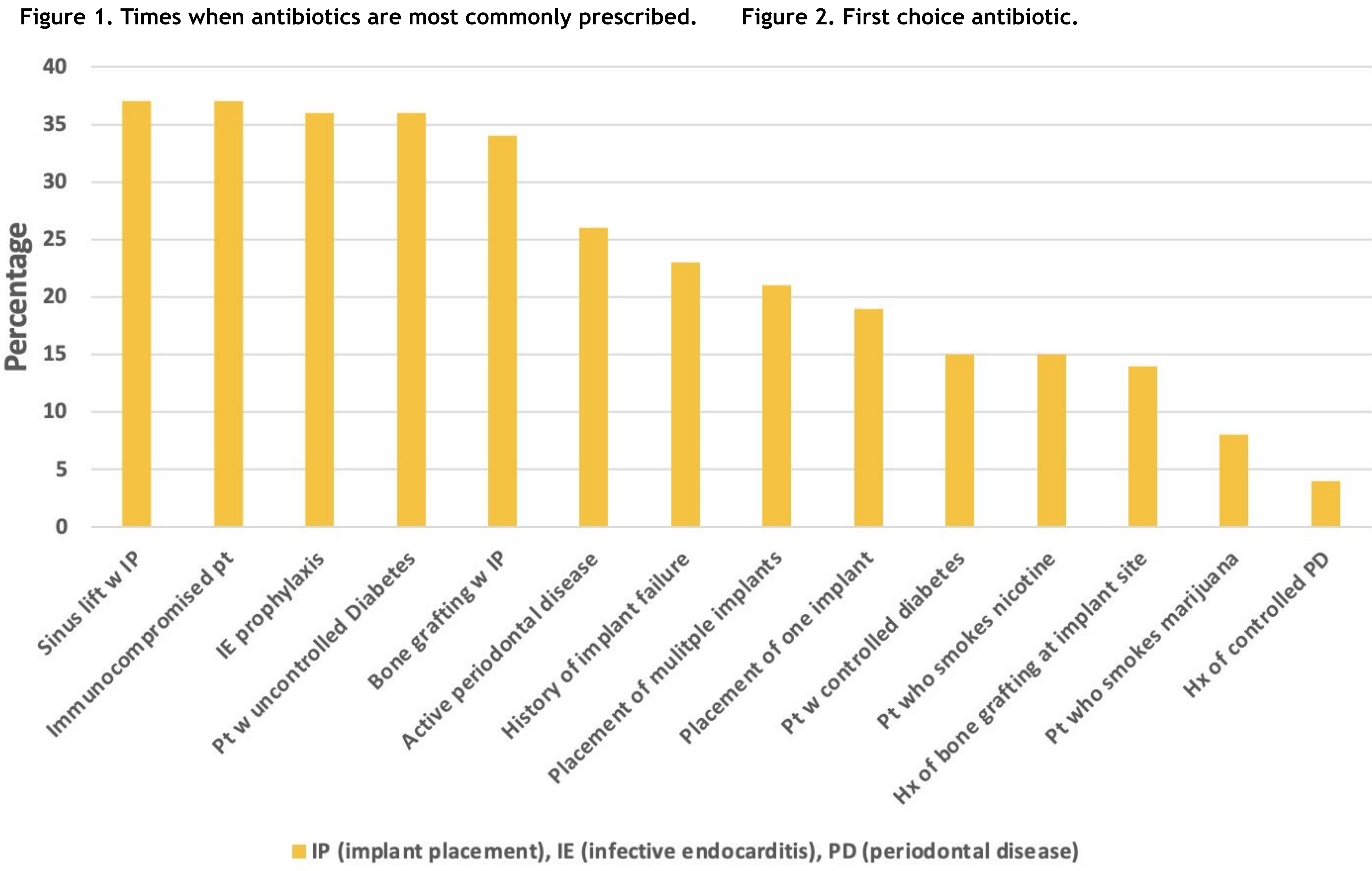


Table 1. Situations in which antibiotics are most commonly prescribed.

Results

- Of the 176 eligible respondents who primarily practice in California, there are 152 oral and maxillofacial surgeons, 10 periodontists, and 9 general dentists.
- Among the respondents, 72.1% would prescribe prophylactic antibiotics to all patients receiving implants, 26.7% would prescribe on a case-by-case basis and 2.3% never prescribe antibiotics.
- The most commonly prescribed prophylactic antibiotic is amoxicillin (86.7%) administered beginning one hour pre-operatively (36.5%).
- The most common regimen employed is 500mg t.i.d. for 7 days (31.4%).
- General dentists are more selective in prescribing antibiotics on a case-by-case basis, whereas oral surgeons and periodontists are more likely to prescribe antibiotics to every patient for routine dental implants.

Conclusions

- While the majority of respondents acknowledge the common use of antibiotic prophylaxis, the results of this study underscore notable variability in the prescription pattern and a significant lack of consensus among dentists for antibiotic use in routine dental implant placement.
- These disparities emphasize the need for an evidence-based protocol regarding antibiotic prescription practices in order to optimize implant success rates and prevent antibiotic overuse.