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Title: *Evaluating health literacy of patients seen during Jamaica Dental Mission Trip*

Objective: The purpose of this study is to determine the level of health literacy of the patients screened during the Jamaica Dental Mission by specifically gauging knowledge of common disease states in Jamaica, hypertension and diabetes. Following the completion of this study, patient educational materials will be assessed and modified, if necessary, for future mission trips.

Methods: An anonymous survey, comprised of 10 questions obtained from two different validated questionnaires, examined knowledge of two prevalent disease states in Jamaica, hypertension and diabetes. The survey was given to patients who gave verbal consent for participation. Inclusion criteria of this study included patients between the ages of 18 and 89 years old. Each participating patient's highest level of education and age was also obtained during the survey.

Results: A total of 94 patients was surveyed during the three days at both clinics, and all participants answered every question for a combined total of 940 responses. Of these 940 responses, 529 (56.3%) of the questions were correctly identified by the participants. The participants had higher correct response rates related to the questions assessing the health literacy of hypertension compared to those questions assessing the health literacy of diabetes.

Conclusions: The patients screened during the Jamaica Dental Mission were found to have lower health literacies compared to the health literacy level found in patient educational materials. In order to enhance the efforts of future missions, educational materials need modification and more counseling needs provided regarding Jamaican-prevalent diseases, hypertension and diabetes.