Children who are unable to cooperate in the dental setting due to age, cognitive disability, medical conditions or other factors are often treated in the operating room under general anesthesia. Pediatric dental programs are often the “safety net” for these patients and may have longer wait times for access to operating room due to the numbers of children who are referred to these centers. The wait time for access to general anesthesia services may necessitate the patients being seen for pain or other issues related to their untreated dental needs. This purpose of this study will be to evaluate the type and frequency of dental visits who are on the OR waitlist at the ECU School of Dental Medicine Pediatric Dental Residency Program.

This study will use a retrospective chart review to compare differences in the cumulative incidence of dental emergencies associated while young children were on a waitlist for dental treatment. SDF, periodic oral eval, limited exam, extraction, and hospital codes will be obtained from a dental software program, Axium to analyze the rates of emergency visits while a patient is on the OR waitlist. The time a patient spent on the OR waitlist will be recorded, along with the amount and type of dental visits between being placed on the OR waitlist and being treated in the OR. We expect to see patients that have not had SDF placed and waited longer times to have more emergency visits than patients that came in for their 6 month recalls or SDF application.

The University of Florida did a similar study that found that 1 in 5 patients had an emergency visit while on their waitlist and decided to implement SDF and more frequent recalls. We expect to find similar results.