

Exploring Corporate Dentistry: A Scoping Review

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Background

- **Dental Corporations** are dental practice services outsourced to third party organizations funded by investors, that may not have direct involvement in clinical dental practice¹.
- Existed in the United Kingdom, North America and Australia for more than a decade^{1,2}.
- Corporate Dentistry (CD) may influence the dental workforce and patient care^{3,4}.
- Limited scientific evidence regarding its impact on dental profession.

Objective

To map existing literature on corporate dentistry.

Methods

- **Protocol Development:** Levac et al (2010) framework updated through Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) guidelines⁵.
 - **Searching for Relevant Studies:** Specific keywords and MeSH terms were developed with the help of an expert librarian.
 - **Databases:** Ovid MEDLINE, PubMed, Web of Science and Google Scholar.
 - **Study Selection:**
- Inclusion Criteria**
- Observational and experimental studies from the past 10 years.
 - No language limitations.
- Exclusion Criteria:** Commentaries and editorial pieces.
- **Charting and Data Synthesis:** Descriptive and Thematic Analyses.
 - **Reporting:** Preferred Reporting items for Systematic Reviews and Meta Analysis Extension for Scoping Reviews (**PRISMA-ScR**)⁶.

Preliminary Results

Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Chart

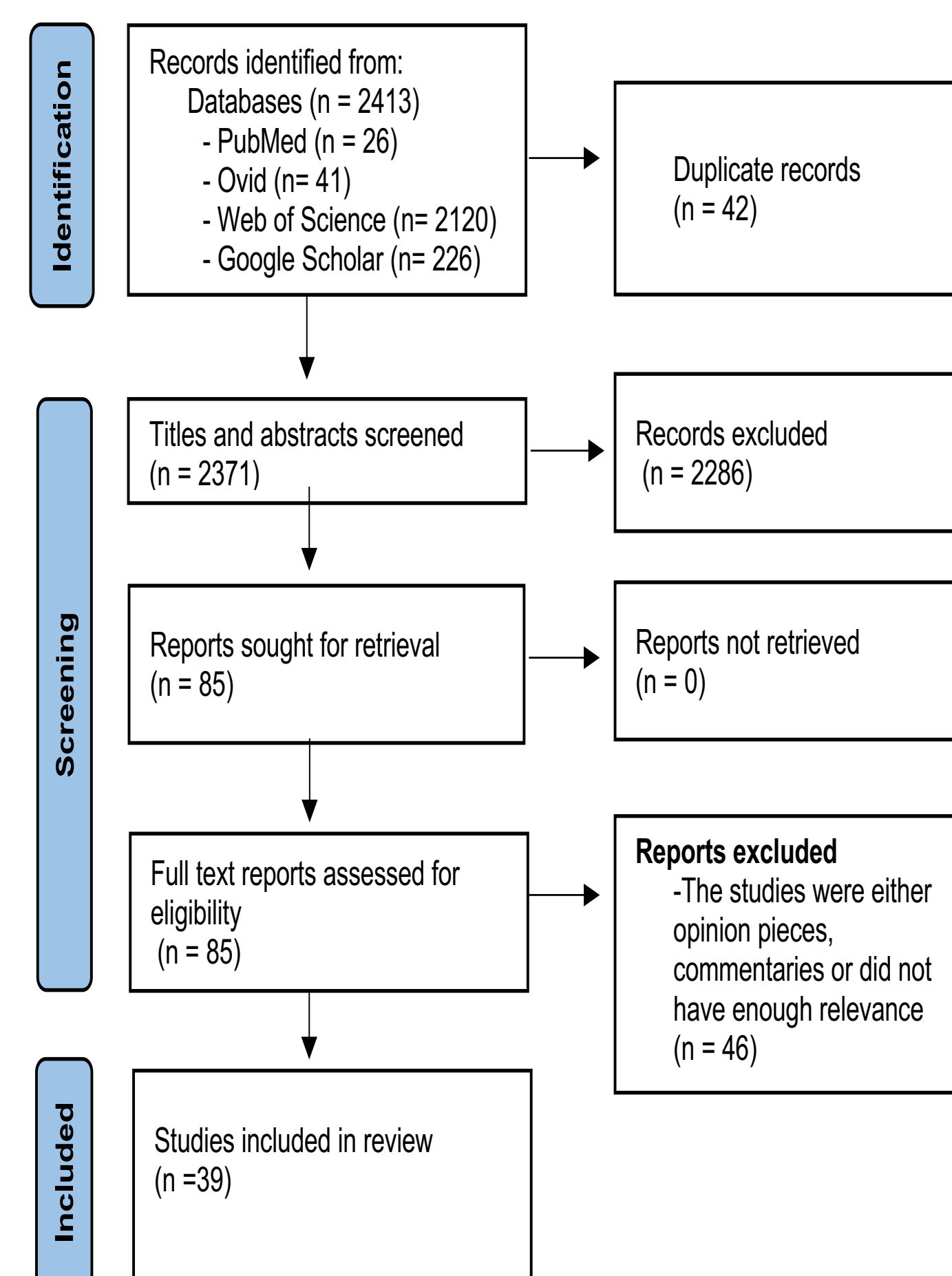
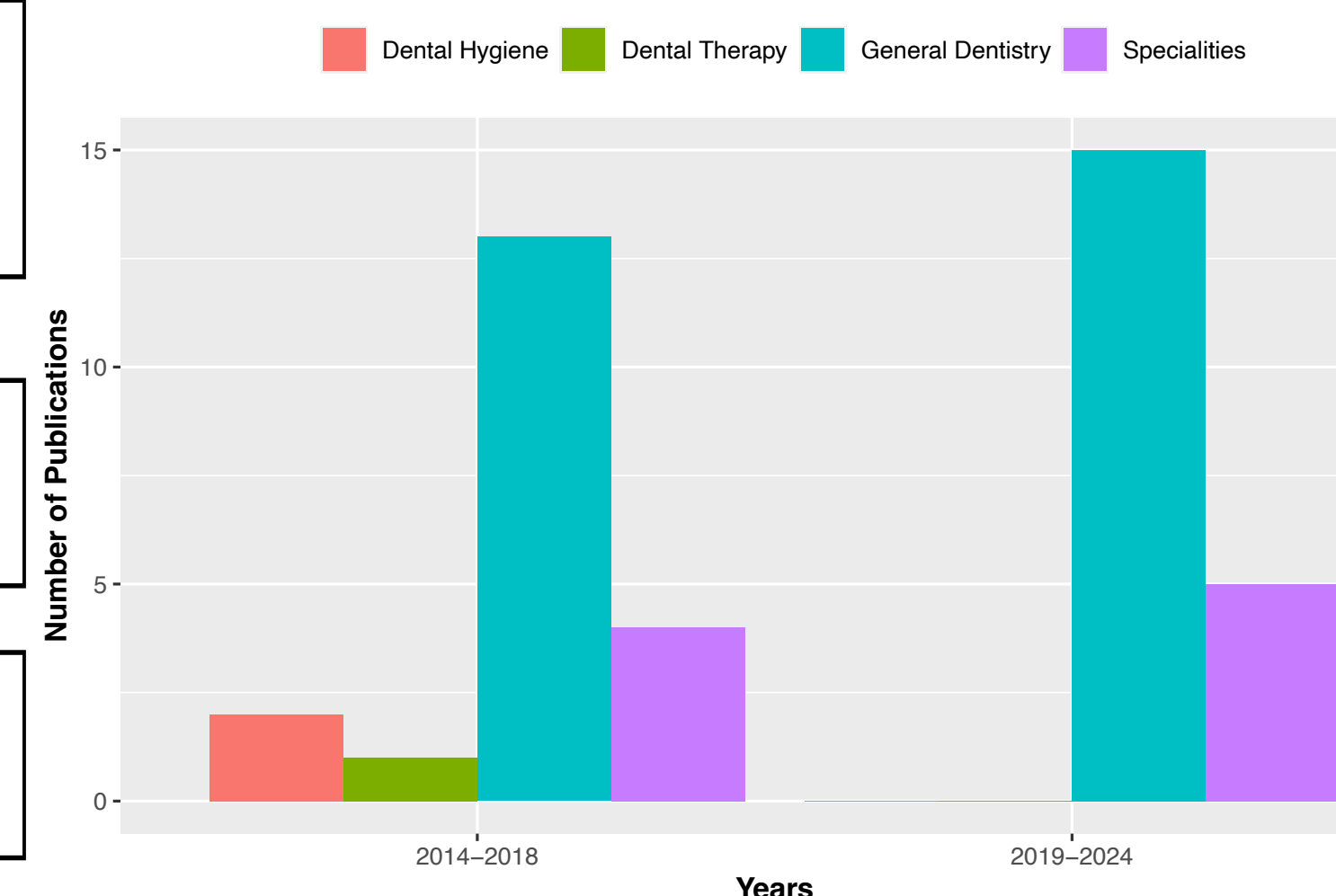


Figure 2: Publications According to the Field



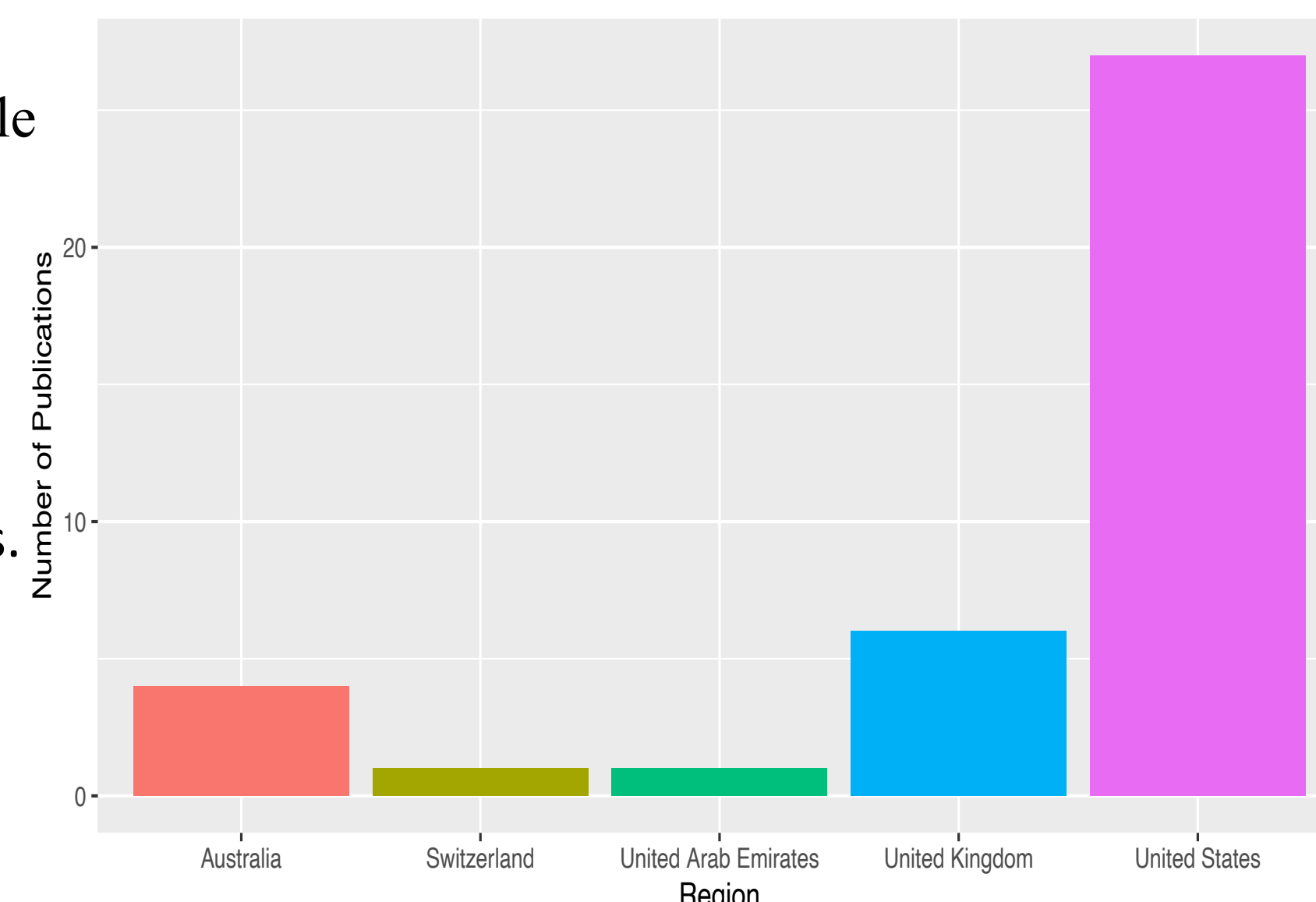
Themes



Sub-Themes

- Work Environment
- Impact on Patients

Figure 3: Corporate Dentistry Publications by Region



Discussion

- CD reshapes practice dynamics.
- Differences in job satisfaction, working conditions, and quality of care may exist between corporate and non-corporate practices.
- CD may raise concerns about autonomy, ethics, and patient outcomes.
- CD may offer streamlined administrative processes leading to improved access to care and clinical outcomes.
- Balancing economic incentives with ethical obligations remains crucial.
- CD could invest in advanced equipment and training consequently improving quality of care.

Significance and Conclusion

- CD is a practice choice for dentists .
- Addressing patient care, regulation, and maintaining professional standards is vital for shaping the future of profession of dentistry.
- Further research on this topic is recommended.

References

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