

5th TheraSol Clinical Survey



TheraSol was introduced to the dental profession in 1989. The original formulation received high marks in previous clinical surveys. In 2002, an improved, fluoride-free version of **TheraSol** was introduced which can be used in conjunction with any toothpaste. This survey was conducted to compare the clinical impressions of dental professionals using the current formula with prior surveys.

In particular, we were interested in learning how clinicians were using **TheraSol** in clinical practice, why they liked it and the nature and extent of any side-effects. We were also interested in learning whether **TheraSol** was being used primarily in office or dispensed to patients as a part of their home care.

We surveyed *power users* (dental practices that dispense significant amounts of **TheraSol**) on the premise that such users would be more likely to see any side-effects than offices dispensing only the occasional bottle of **TheraSol**.

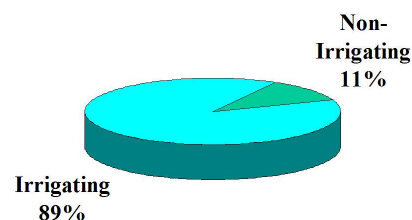
Participants

The current survey was mailed to 200 power users. Over half (106 or 53%) responded. This is high for a mail survey, but consistent with prior surveys. The sample subset included both general practitioners and periodontists; solo and group practices.

1. Do you irrigate patients during in-office visits?

In our first survey (1991), very few practices irrigated patients in-office. In-office irrigation has risen dramatically since then, now practiced by 89% of power users.

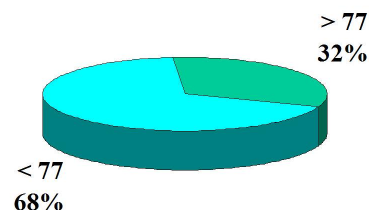
Practices Irrigating
In-Office



1a. Approximate number of patients irrigated (with anything) per month?

94 practices reported irrigating a total average of 3,300 patients a month (39,540 / year). The average number of patients irrigated per practice per month was 35, but ranged from 1-250. Most offices (68%) irrigated between 1-77 patients per month.

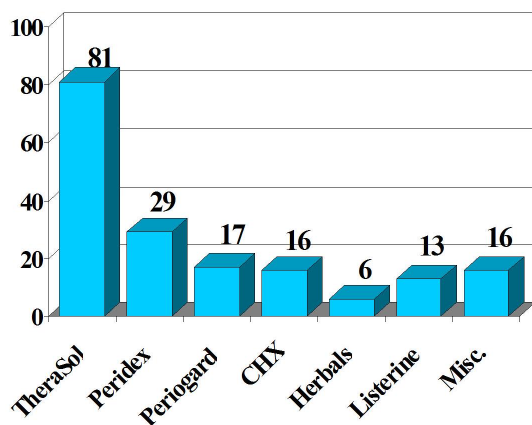
Irrigations per Month



1b. Do you irrigate with TheraSol?

YES = 86.2% (81 of 106 practices)

What Other Irrigants do you Use?



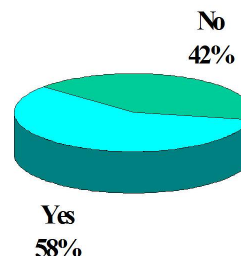
1c. Do you use other antimicrobial agents?

Most practices irrigated with **TheraSol** (81). Most used just one antimicrobial, but some reported using a variety of agents. 62 used chlorhexidine, including Peridex, Periogard and generic CHX. 19 also used herbals including Listerine. The miscellaneous category included one or two instances of 11 different agents.

2. Do patients rinse with TheraSol pre or post crowns and surgery?

62 practices (59.6%) reported having patients irrigate with **TheraSol** before or after surgical procedures, including crown preps and implants.

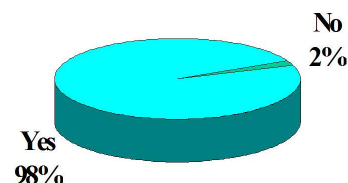
Do Patients Rinse with TheraSol Pre or Post-Op?



3. How many patients use TheraSol at home per month?

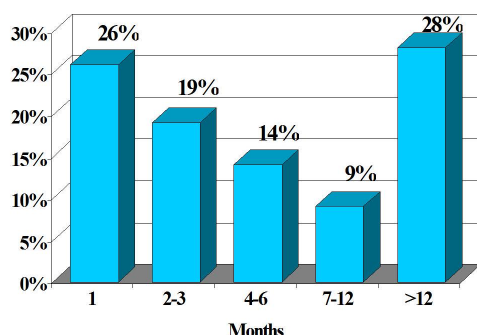
103 of 106 practices (97.2%) dispensed **TheraSol** for use during home care.

TheraSol in Home Care



3a. How long does the average patient use TheraSol at home?

Average Length of Use of TheraSol by Patients in Home Care Programs



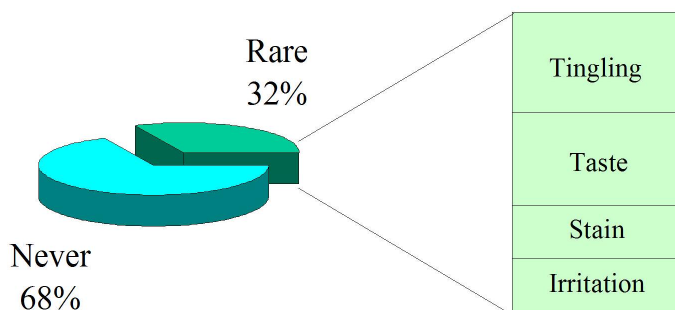
About a quarter of all patients use **TheraSol** at home for one month. Progressively fewer practices reported using TheraSol for 2-3 (19%), 4-6 (14%) and 7-12 (9%) months respectively. But, surprisingly, most practices (28%) reported that the average patient used TheraSol long term (>12 months).

4. Have you seen any adverse effects?

Reported side-effects were rare. About 2/3 of offices saw no side-effects at all. The remainder noted only occasional instances. Of those side-effects seen, the most common was a mild burning or tingling sensation. A few patients didn't like the taste and some practices saw isolated incidents of light staining and tissue irritation, all mild and reversible. The misc. category included one instance of excitability and heartburn.

The bad taste sensation reported by a few patients is puzzling since **TheraSol's** combination of spearmint, peppermint and menthol was reported as the 2nd best-liked feature of **TheraSol**.

Incidental of Side-Effects

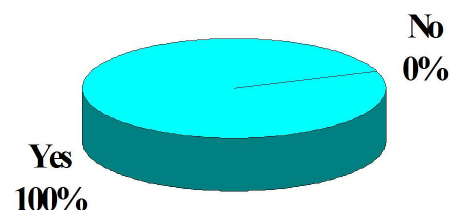


5. Are you pleased with TheraSol?

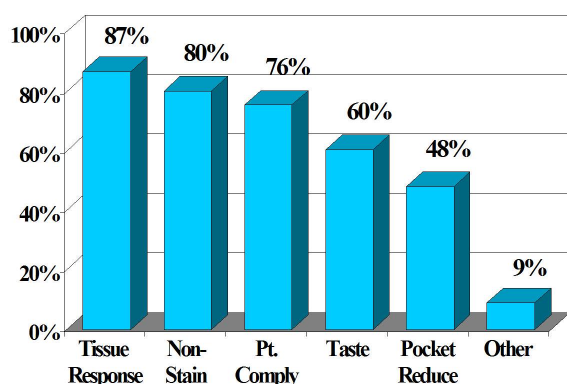
Unanimously, yes.

106 of 106 practices answered in the affirmative.

Are you pleased with TheraSol?



Best Liked TheraSol Attributes



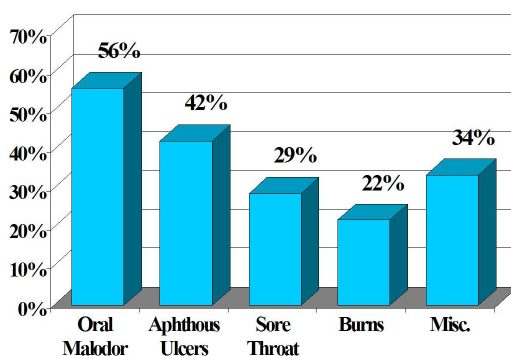
5a. What do you like best about TheraSol?

Tissue response was the #1 answer (87%), closely followed by:
Non-staining (80%)
Patient Compliance (76%)
Good Taste (60%) and
Pocket Reduction (48%).

6. Non-periodontal Applications

59 practices (56%) reported using **TheraSol** for a wide range of non-periodontal applications, including: oral malodor, aphthous ulcers and herpetic lesions, burns, lacerations and sore throats. The *Misc.* category included 8 implants, 4 fungus, and 2 veterinary applications (dog ears & horse hooves). Nail fungus was also mentioned 3 times.

Non-Perio Applications



Use for Non-Perio Applications?

