



AI & the Future of Dental Assisting

Key findings from the summit and survey

On Sept. 19, 2025, the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) hosted a summit for leaders in dentistry to discuss artificial intelligence (AI) and the future of the dental assisting profession.

Held in Chicago, the AI & the Future of Dental Assisting Summit was an invitation-only event, which brought together leaders in AI and dentistry to share their perspectives and predictions about where AI in dentistry is headed and how the dental assistant workforce can be prepared for the future.

The summit featured dynamic discussions and a panel session with executives from Bola AI, Heartland Dental, Overjet, PDS Health, and Viva AI. Attendees included dentists, assistants, hygienists, office managers, educators, association and industry leaders, consultants, and strategists.



Summit Insights



- AI's influence is growing and impacting dental practices of all sizes, although some practices and practitioners are slower to adopt. Training for dental assistants will be critical for adoption success.

- AI tools can boost dental assistants' confidence when speaking with patients and providing post-appointment information.



- There are opportunities for training and education in formal settings and on the job.

- Dental assistants will be on the front lines explaining how AI supports patient care, so communication and reassurance skills are vital.

- AI may allow assistants to take on new and expanded responsibilities, in addition to augmenting their current role.

- Dental assistants need to be part of the conversations and training when practices and clinics incorporate AI tools.



- As AI becomes part of more dental practices, assistants have an important role to develop the skills and critical thinking to use it effectively.

- Practices that are incorporating AI report new efficiencies and more staff time for clinical and business functions.

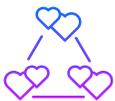
What dental assistants do that AI could never replace



Patient comfort and reassurance



Creating a human connection



Passion and commitment to patient care



Responding to patient needs and body language



Empathy, compassion



Providing a personal touch



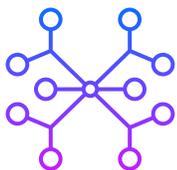
Building patient relationships and trust



Standing with the dentist and making sure the procedure runs smoothly

Survey Findings

In May 2025, in anticipation of the summit, DANB surveyed dental assistants and educators about their experiences and thoughts on AI. These are some of the key findings.

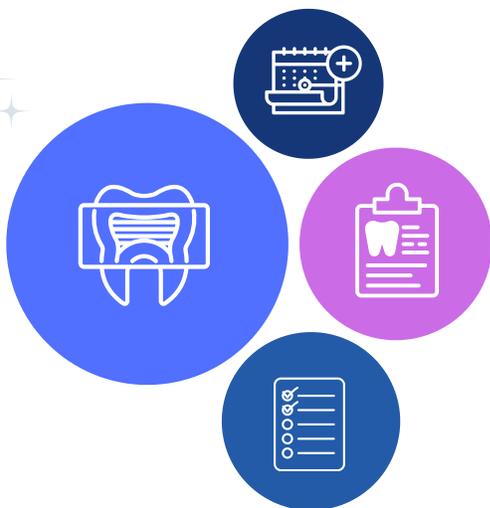


1 in 3

assistants said their workplace is using AI tools

Most common uses for AI in the dental practice:

- Dental radiography (60%)
- Scheduling and communications (28%)
- Charting and documentation (24%)
- Treatment planning (17%)

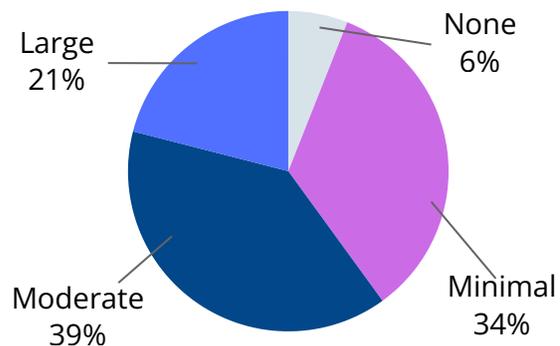


Top reasons for not using AI in the dental practice:

- Doctor not interested (41%)
- No perceived benefits (19%)
- Too expensive (18%)
- Security or HIPAA concerns (16%)

Future perspectives

What impact will AI have on dentistry?



Will AI augment dental assistants' responsibilities?

Many dental assistants were not sure.

