

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The *International Journal of Evidence-Based Practice for the Dental Hygienist* is published to advance the practice of dental hygiene through articles that inform readers how to identify, critically appraise, and use the most comprehensive and current body of science when helping their patients make individualized oral health care decisions, with contents including:

1. Articles to help build skills needed to efficiently identify and critique scientific literature and to understand the relevance of statistical data
2. Summaries and critical appraisals of science relevant to the practice of dental hygiene
3. Original clinical studies and systematic reviews of science relevant to the practice of dental hygiene

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Experimental procedures in humans and animals. The publisher endorses the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki and insists that all original research involving human beings reported in this journal be carried out in conformity with these principles (<http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>). Animal experiments should also conform to these principles or with analogous principles, such as the EU Directive 2010/63/EU (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/legislation_en.htm). Authors reporting on experimental work in humans or animals should also cite evidence in the article that the work has been approved by, respectively, an institutional clinical/human experimentation panel or an institutional animal care and use panel (or equivalent), and that in the case of experimental work in humans, informed consent from each human subject has been obtained. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

Conflict of interest. All institutional or corporate affiliations and all funding sources supporting the study must be acknowledged in the article. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent-licensing arrangements, equity interests, and grants or other funding.

Funding source(s). Sources of financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article must be identified and their roles (in the study design, data collection or analysis; writing, or decision to submit to this journal) explained briefly. If the funding source(s) had no involvement in these areas, this should be stated.

AUTHORSHIP

Author representation. By submission of an article to this journal, authors warrant the following: (1) the manuscript and all other elements of the work are original (not published previously except in the form of an abstract) without fabrication, plagiarism, or fraud; (2) the manuscript is not under consideration elsewhere and will not be submitted for consideration elsewhere unless a final decision is made that it is not acceptable for the journal; (3) no part of the manuscript violates any copyright; (4) publication of the manuscript is approved by all authors; and (5) if accepted, the article will not be published elsewhere, in print or electronically in any language, without written consent of the publisher. (All manuscripts will be checked for plagiarism using plagiarism-detection software prior to review.)

Changes to authorship. After an article has been accepted, any changes to authorship (addition, deletion, or rearrangement of order) must be requested using the following protocol: The corresponding author must send a request for change of authorship to the journal managing editor. This should describe the reason for the change and include written confirmation (email, fax, or letter) from all authors, including any author being added or deleted, that they agree with the change.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

All articles must be submitted through the journal's manuscript submission system: www.manuscriptmanager.com/ebpdp

ACCEPTABLE MATERIAL

Original articles are considered for publication on the condition they have not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere (except at the discretion of the editors). Articles on evidence-based health care, caries, periodontal disease, oral cancer, implementation, or other top-

ics relevant to the practice of dental hygiene are invited.

ARTICLE PREPARATION

General information. Manuscripts should be double-spaced and all pages numbered. Do not include author names as headers or footers on pages.

Title page. Page 1 should include the title of the article and the names, degrees, titles, and professional affiliations of all authors in the order in which they should appear in the article. For the corresponding author, complete mailing address, as well as phone, fax, and email address, should also be provided. If the paper was presented before an organized group, the name of the organization, location, and date should be included.

Abstract/Keywords. The abstract should not exceed 350 words. Abstracts for Original Research articles and Systematic Reviews should be structured with the following four sections: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusions. Abstracts of Evidence Overviews or Critical Appraisals should be a maximum of 250 words and should include the following five sections: Background, Clinical question, Summary of methods, Critical appraisal, Practical implications. For all other types of articles (ie, Special Features, Evidence-Based Practice Skill Building), abstracts should not exceed 250 words and need not be structured. A list of keywords should be provided.

Figure legends. Figure legends should be typed as a group at the end of the manuscript. Detailed legends are required.

Tables. Each table should be logically organized, typed on a separate page at the end of the manuscript, and numbered consecutively. Table title and footnotes should be typed on the same page as the table. Tables must be supplied in an editable format (not as an image file).

Figures. Graphs and drawings should be provided as editable vector files. Photographs must be a minimum of 300 dpi.

Abbreviations. The full term for which an abbreviation stands should precede its first use in the text unless it is a standard unit of measurement.

Trade names. Generic terms are to be used whenever possible, but trade names and manufacturer names should be included parenthetically at first mention.

Acknowledgments. Persons who have made substantive contributions to the study can be acknowledged. Sources of financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article should also be disclosed in the Acknowledgments section.

References. All references must be cited in the text, numbered in order of appearance. The reference list should appear at the end of the article in numeric sequence. Provide complete information for each reference, including names of all authors (up to six). If there are more than six authors, use the first three names followed by et al. If the reference is to part of a book, also include title of the chapter and name(s) of the book's editor(s).

Journal reference style:

1. Verhoef WA, Livas C, Delli K, Ren Y. Assessing the standards of online oral hygiene instructions for patients with fixed orthodontic appliances. *J Am Dent Assoc* 2015;146:310–317.

Book reference style:

1. Weyent R, Saltmarsh H. Use of evidence-based dentistry in dental public health. In: Frantsve-Hawley J (ed). *Evidence-Based Dentistry for the Dental Hygienist*. Chicago: Quintessence, 2014:175–196.

SPECIFIC ARTICLE TYPES

The journal accepts original articles under each of the following manuscript categories: Special Features, Evidence-Based Practice Skill Building, Evidence Overviews, Evidence Summaries and Critical Appraisals, Systematic Reviews, and Original Research.

Special Features. At the discretion of the Editor, special feature articles may be included in journal issues. These are intended to be background articles that provide a broad perspective on the implementation of evidence-based health care into the practice of dental hygiene.

Evidence-Based Practice Skill Building. Skill-building articles should provide information about various strategies used to implement an evidence-based practice. Examples include literature databases, search strategies, study designs, and sta-

tics. Such articles should be written in a clear, concise, and user-friendly format.

Evidence Overviews. Articles should present a broad overview of a body of evidence on specific clinical topics relevant to dental hygiene. Examples include summaries of multiple systematic reviews or evidence-based guidelines.

Evidence Summaries and Critical Appraisals. These should include a summary and critical appraisal of an individual clinical study or individual systematic review of interest to the readers. A critical appraisal tool based on the study design should be used to assist the author in evaluating each study. Such tools can be found on the following websites:

- Center for Evidence-Based Medicine
- Critical Appraisal Tools: University of South Australia
- CASP Checklists
- AMSTAR Checklist for Critical Appraisal of Systematic Reviews

The title page should also include the complete citation of the article being summarized. The structured abstract (250 words) should include the following sections:

- Background
- Clinical question
- Summary of methods (description of the methods and study type of the original article)
- Critical appraisal (description of the strengths and weaknesses of the original article being critiqued and evidence)
- Practical implications (statement of how the evidence may be applied in practice, taking into account the quantity of evidence, the quality of the evidence based on the critical appraisal, and the consistency of the evidence)

The body of the manuscript should include the following sections:

- Evidence summary (background, clinical question, methods used in the study, study results, original authors' conclusion)
- Critical appraisal (evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the study and evidence, and clinical implications)

Authors are strongly encouraged to use a critical appraisal tool specific to the study design in conducting their critical appraisal. The Critical Appraisal should, at a minimum, consider the following questions:

- Was there a focused clinical question?
- What was the quality of the methods?
- What was the quantity of evidence?
- Were the results statistically significant?
- Was the effect size clinically relevant?
- Were the assessed outcomes patient-oriented?
- Were there any adverse events?

Systematic Reviews. These should be qualitative systematic reviews or quantitative systematic reviews (including meta-analysis) of topics relevant to the practice of dental hygiene. Authors of systematic reviews are strongly encouraged to adhere to Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses, available at <http://www.prisma-statement.org/statement.htm>. For meta-analysis, data should be presented as a forest plot rather than narrative or tabular presentation of summary estimates, confidence intervals, and assessment of heterogeneity.

Original Research. Articles must present clinical research on topics relevant to the practice of dental hygiene. Examples include randomized controlled trials, cohort studies, case-control studies, qualitative studies, and implementation research.

MANDATORY SUBMISSION FORM

Upon article acceptance, all authors of an article must sign and submit a Mandatory Submission and Assignment of Copyright form to the journal managing editor. This form can be downloaded from the journal's website (www.quintpub.com). Email/fax information for submitting this form will be supplied in the letter of acceptance.

MANUSCRIPT REVIEW/EDITING

Manuscripts will be reviewed by the editor-in-chief and reviewers with expertise in the field that the article encompasses within 2 months of submission. The publisher reserves the right to edit accepted manuscripts to fit the space available and to ensure conciseness, clarity, and stylistic consistency, subject to the author's final approval.