
EDITORIAL

Evidence-based Dentistry: a powerful tool for decision.

Thousands of articles are published each year and we do not have time to read all of them. How to identify the relevant papers from thousand works?

During the 1990s, a new process for reviewing scientific evidence emerged in medicine and other health fields, based on systematic approaches to summarize the large volume of literature that health care providers need to assimilate into their practices.

According to American Dental Association, Evidence-based dentistry (EBD) is defined as “an approach to oral health care that requires the judicious integration of systematic assessments of clinically relevant scientific evidence, relating to the patient’s oral and medical condition and history, with the dentist’s clinical expertise and the patient’s treatment needs and preferences” (ADA,2003).

To help clinicians to decide which is the best treatment, EBD defines a clinically relevant and focused question and search process for the best evidence from randomized controlled clinical trials, non-randomized controlled clinical trials, cohort studies, case-control studies, crossover studies, cross-sectional studies, case studies, or the consensus opinion of experts in appropriate fields of research or clinical practice.

To start to understand the power and the basis of this strategy, in November 2003, an Evidence-based Dentistry Course will be conducted at Bauru Dental School, USP, with the collaboration of Richard Niederman (EUA), Derek Richards (Scotland) and Debora C. Matthews (Canada). It will be a wonderful opportunity to start a new way to ask and answer questions! Wait for more information.

It’s important to mention the support from SBPqO during the Annual Meeting (Aug-30 to Sep-03/ 2003, in Águas de Lindóia), allowing us to shown our journal evolution. Thanks to Dr. Lages and the Organizing Committee Staff for the opportunity.

Talking about evidence, in this issue, Wang et al. discuss the most important laboratory tests to analyze the mechanical properties of a wide variety of dental products that are launched on the market. The knowledge of these tests will provide a critical opinion related to the properties of different dental materials and then help to make the correct selection.

Finally, I would invite our community to send yours high quality papers to JAOS, creating a virtuous cycle that will make this periodical even better.

Thank a lot everybody.

Editors

Reference

American Dental Association. ADA Policy on Evidence-Based Dentistry; 2003. Available from: URL: <http://www.ada.org/prof/prac/issues/statements/evidencebased.html>