

Keeping up to date

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The GDC standards for the dental team (www.gdc-uk.org/Dental_professionals/Standards/Pages/standards.aspx) state that you must

- Provide good quality care based on current evidence and authoritative guidance
- Work within your knowledge, skills, professional competence and abilities
- Update and develop your professional knowledge and skills throughout your working life.

Keeping up to date with the latest evidence and guidance is increasingly challenging for practitioners. One of the key objectives of this journal is to assist practitioners in this by filtering the best evidence from other journals and providing summaries to assist their understanding of this evidence. With new dental journals appearing on a regular basis the growth in the volume of dental articles seems never ending.

Currently Medline lists some 1212 dental journals, although not all of these are indexed on their database. For this journal we regularly monitor 42 journals (see Table 1) using an RSS (Rich Site Summary) feed reader or aggregator. This can easily be monitored on a daily basis to identify high quality studies that are considered relevant to the general practitioner. To supplement the 42 regularly monitored journals we also run regular searches of Medline for dental systematic reviews and trials on a weekly basis. After their initial development these searches were saved in the My NCBI facility on Medline and are run automatically, sending an email with any new article matching the searches' criteria according to a pre-determined time period.

This approach allows monitoring of all the dental journals currently referenced on Medline. It also ensures that dentally relevant reviews and trials published in non-dental journals can be identified. These two approaches could be employed by anyone to keep up to date with published articles in their particular field of interest. Information on how to use the saved searches and automated searching facility within My NCBI section is provided in the how to section of the Medline site.

Two other evidence-based resources that summarise evidence for the dental team that practitioners may find useful are; *The Journal of Evidence-based Dental Practice* and *The Dental Elf* (www.thedentalelf.net). In addition to these there are of course a vast array of face-to-face and on-line courses, lectures, courses and conferences available provided by a wide variety of providers. However, increasingly I think that we should be looking to ask the question as to what is the evidence-base they are using for their content.

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Table 1. Journals regularly searched for articles for inclusion in EBD

<i>American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics</i>
<i>Acta Odontologica Scandinavica</i>
<i>Archives of Oral Biology</i>
<i>Australian Dental Journal</i>
<i>BMC Oral Health</i>
<i>British Dental Journal</i>
<i>British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</i>
<i>Caries Research</i>
<i>Clinical Oral Implants Research</i>
<i>Cochrane Library</i>
<i>Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology</i>
<i>European Journal of Dental Education</i>
<i>European Journal of Oral Sciences</i>
<i>Gerodontology</i>
<i>International Endodontic Journal</i>
<i>International Journal of Dental Hygiene</i>
<i>International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</i>
<i>International Journal of Oral Science</i>
<i>International Journal of Prosthodontics</i>
<i>International Journal of Paediatric Dentistry</i>
<i>Journal of Canadian Dental Association</i>
<i>Journal of Clinical Periodontology</i>
<i>Journal of Cranio-Maxillo-Facial Surgery</i>
<i>Journal of Dental Research</i>
<i>Journal of Dentistry</i>
<i>Journal of Dentistry for Children</i>
<i>Journal of Endodontics</i>
<i>Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery</i>
<i>Journal of Oral Pathology and Medicine</i>
<i>Journal of Orthodontics</i>
<i>Journal of Periodontal Research</i>
<i>Journal of Prosthodontics</i>
<i>Journal of Public Health Dentistry</i>
<i>Journal of Periodontology</i>
<i>Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry</i>
<i>Journal of Oral Rehabilitation</i>
<i>Orthodontics and Craniofacial Research</i>
<i>Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology</i>
<i>Progress in Orthodontics</i>
<i>The Angle Orthodontist</i>
<i>The European Journal of Orthodontics</i>
<i>The Journal of the American Dental Association</i>