



## What should be published in a journal aimed at general dental practitioners?

At *Quintessence International* our goal is to provide the general dental practitioner with clinically relevant articles that are scientifically based. In selecting these articles, the editorial board members keep in mind the question, "What are the needs of the general dental practitioner and what should be published in *Quintessence International* to achieve this goal?"

We accept manuscripts from all the available disciplines in dentistry and recently defined the following categories as the major topics on which *Quintessence International* should focus: Restorative Dentistry, Endodontics, Periodontology, Prosthodontics, Esthetic Dentistry, Implantology, Pediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics, Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Orofacial Pain, Radiology/Imaging, General Dentistry, Practice Management, and Community Dentistry. Within these categories, we work to find reviews, studies, cases, and methodologies that may be interesting and beneficial for general dental practitioners from all over the world. Often we have to reject a well-written article that describes a very interesting and well-designed study, simply because the topic is too specific and relatable only to a limited group of dentists.

The task of deciding whether or not an article is relevant to the aforementioned general dental practitioner proves difficult at times, as is ensuring that the subject matter is interesting to dentists across the globe. To facilitate this process, we try to delegate each article to reviewers from different continents and countries, and specifically ask their opinion regarding the relevance of the article to the general, international dental practitioner. This process potentially extends the review time but provides a broader perspective and highly objective evaluation.

Frequently we receive articles that describe prevalence or incidence of a pathological condition in a certain area (city, town, state, etc) of

the world. Although this condition has not been studied in the reported area prior to the specific study, in most of the cases the findings are no different from those previously reported in other regions. Such a study may have significance but does not fit the scope of *Quintessence International*.

Another example is articles that detail description of very sophisticated and difficult to perform methods. When evaluating such articles we must ask ourselves, "Should this be shared with general practitioners or rather with specialists?" The answer to this question is by no means simple. Sometimes general dental practitioners should be exposed to the described method in order to refer patients when necessary. However, the methods reported are often not sufficiently supported by the literature and should be directed to the relevant specialty community for discussion and workup prior to sharing with the dental world.

Over the years, we have found that only a limited proportion of in-vitro or ex-vivo studies are relevant to the general dental practitioner. Usually a clinical study should follow the in-vitro study before the material or the procedure should be used in the clinic. However, the clinical phase of the research will most likely be relevant to readers of *Quintessence International*.

The general guideline for *Quintessence International* editors is to select articles that will serve general dental practitioners around the world, even if the task sometimes leads to rejection of excellent articles. Although these may not fit our fundamental aim, they may be published in other peer reviewed journals, and *Quintessence International* remains clinically relevant to our readers.

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