

2015 Clinical Research Award in Periodontology

Each year, the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) presents the Clinical Research Award, sponsored by Quintessence Publishing Company, to an outstanding published scientific study with direct clinical relevance in periodontics. The winning study must follow established scientific methods for a human study, be published in English in a scientific journal during the previous calendar year, directly apply to the practice of periodontics, and provide new information that can be readily used by practitioners in the evaluation of patients.

The 2015 award recognized the study titled "An Evidence-Based Scoring Index to Determine the Periodontal Prognosis on Molars" (Preston D. Miller, Mark L. McEntire, Nicole M. Marlow, Robert G. Gellin, *J Periodontol* 2014;85:214–225). The study authors accepted the award at the American Academy of Periodontology's 2015 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, USA.

The retrospective study, which appeared in the February 2014 issue of the *Journal of Periodontology*, evaluated and assigned scores to six prognostic factors (age, probing depth, mobility, furcation involvement, smoking, and molar type) and derived a quantitative scoring index used to determine the periodontal prognosis on



(from left) Robert G. Gellin, DMD, MHS; Preston D. Miller, Jr, DDS; and Mark L. McEntire, DMD, MSD are three of the authors recognized for their study.

molar teeth. Data were gathered on 816 molars in 102 patients with moderate to severe periodontitis. Each factor evaluated was assigned a numeric score based on statistical analysis. The sum of the scores for all factors was used to determine the prognosis score for each molar. All patients were evaluated a minimum of 15 years after treatment. The posttreatment time ranged from 15 to 40 years and averaged 24 years. When the study was completed, 639 molars had survived (78%), and, of those surviving molars, 588 were periodontally healthy (92%). In molars with scores of 1 to 3, the 15-year survival rates ranged from 98% to 96%; in molars with scores of 4 to 6, the 15-year survival rates ranged from 95% to 90%; and for molars with scores of 7 to 10, the survival rates ranged from 86% to 67%. The results indicated that the periodontal prognosis of molars diagnosed with moderate to severe periodontitis can be calculated using an evidence-based scoring index.

To view the study's abstract, please visit <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23725028>. For information about the AAP Clinical Research Award, please visit www.perio.org/members/ma/ma.html#clinical.