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## Evidence-based Implant Treatment Planning and Clinical Protocols

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### Abstract

Evidence-based dentistry ( EBD ) gives you, the clinician, the tools to run an evidence-based practice. Once you have ascertained that the results are applicable to your patient, you now have to determine if the results are valid and compelling enough to allow you to feel comfortable applying them. It constructs a hierarchy of evidence which allows the reader to put what they are reading, or hearing, into perspective. As we proceed on this short trail together, I want to state that there is no substitute for your own clinical experience and common sense, and hope that when you are done with this article you will understand why. I am not here to trash the literature, rather to propose that not all published works are equal. You have taken general practice residency programs, specialty programs, and perhaps specialty certification exams. You have a lifelong commitment to continuing education, attend lectures and seminars, and read professional journals. You have spent years honing your clinical and patient-management skills. You are indeed the real clinical scholars and you make the clinical decisions. EBD is a tool; it can never replace your skill, experience or judgment<sup>9</sup>.

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