

# Clinical studies on GTR techniques, are they science-based?

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# GTR techniques- science based?

- Define the given topic
- Descriptive bibliometric data
- How to characterize “science-based”
  - ☞ Types of clinical studies
- Critical appraisal of the clinical studies
- Which GTR techniques are science based

# Define the given topic

As clinicians we should train to formulate well-built clinical questions.

Well built question includes four elements:

1. Patient or problem
2. Intervention
3. Comparison intervention
4. Outcome

# Well built clinical question:

## 1. Patient characteristic and problem?

- ◆ Bone loss

  - ☞ Adults / Adolescent

  - ☞ General / local

  - ☞ Horizontal / vertical

- ◆ Interradicular

- ◆ After 3d. molar extractions

- ◆ Implant installation

- ◆ Alveolar ridge maintenance

# Well built clinical question:

1. Patient characteristic and problem?

2 & 3. Intervention & alternative intervention?

“GTR techniques”

# Guided Tissue Regeneration - MESH

## Definition (1992)

The repopulating of the periodontium, after treatment for periodontal disease.

Repopulation is achieved by guiding the periodontal ligament progenitor cells to reproduce in the desired location by blocking contact of epithelial and gingival connective tissues with the root during healing. This blocking is accomplished by using synthetic membranes or collagen membranes.

# Well built clinical question:

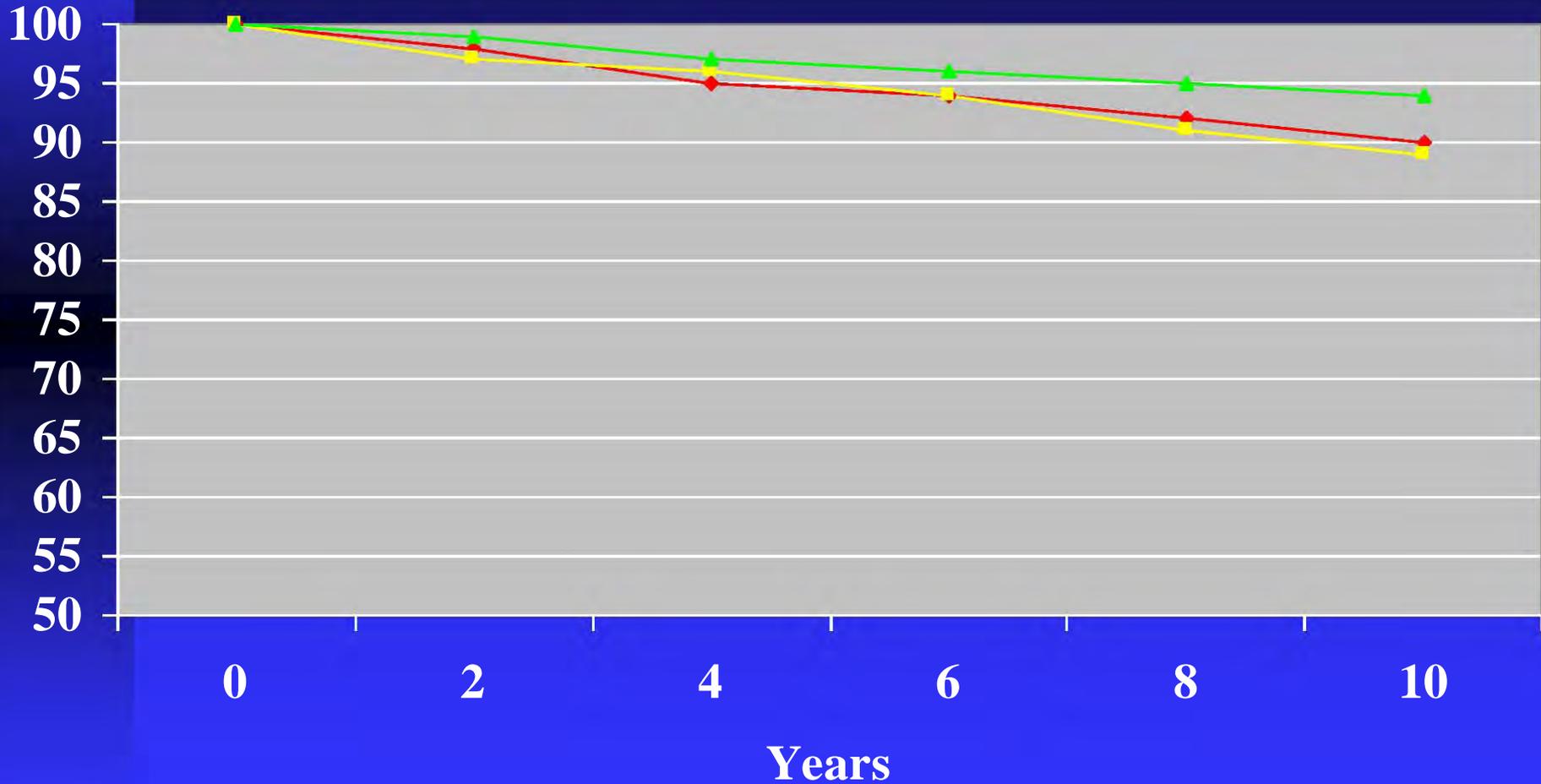
1. Patient characteristic and problem?

2 & 3. Intervention & alternative intervention?

4. **Criteria for outcome**

Patient or operator centered

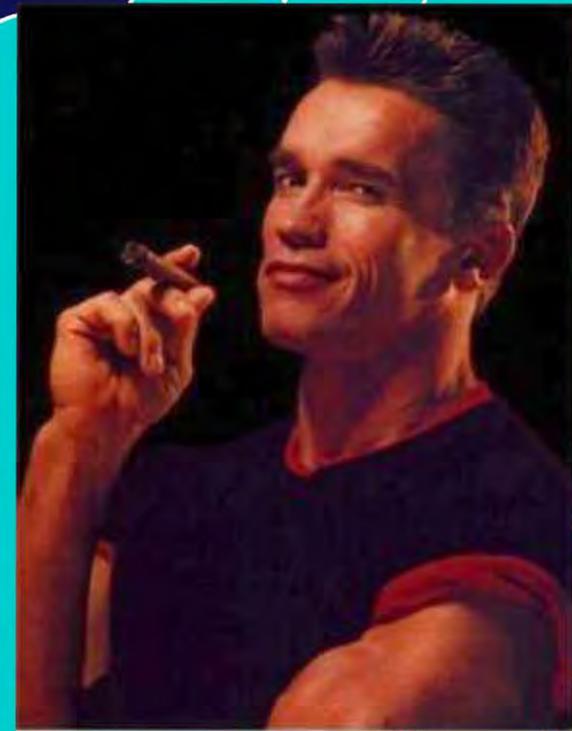
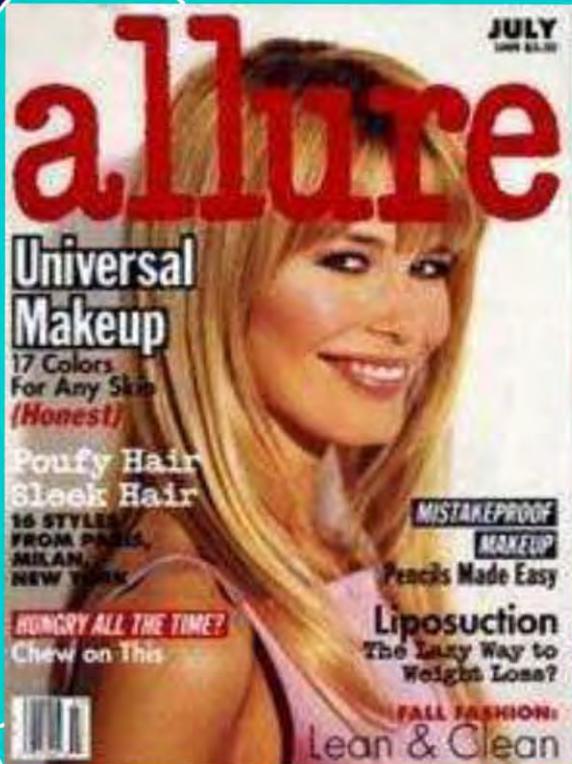
# We present e.g. survival data:



# ...or even odds ratios.. while patients...

Independent variables	Bi-variate odds ratios	Bivariate significance	95% Confidence intervals bivariate odds ratios	Multi-variate odds ratios	Multivariate significance	95% Confidence intervals for multivariate odds ratios
<b>Age</b>						
20-30	-	-	-	-	-	-
30-40	2.32	**	1.15 - 3.13	2.52	**	1.35 - 3.33
+40	2.63	***	1.43 - 3.08	2.63	***	1.83 - 3.8
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	-	-	-	-	-	-
Female	2.42	**	1.61 - 2.79	2.12	**	1.91 - 2.9
<b>Material</b>						
Gold	-	-	-	-	-	-
Metall-ceram	1.12	NS	0.13 - 1.56	1.42	NS	1.13 - 1.96
<b>Dentists</b>						
#1	-	-	-	-	-	-
#2	1.34	NS	0.35 - 1.61	1.04	NS	1.35 - 2.01
<b>Location</b>						
Mandible	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maxilla	1.55	*	1.17 - 2.04	1.15	*	1.57 - 2.14

.. really may prefer other values...



Oslo 13 November 1999

Norsk Periodontistsforening 25 år

- Define the given task
- Descriptive bibliometric data

# Seeking evidence

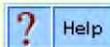
- Textbooks
- Proceedings
- Medline

Bilder av jønkøping  
concensus, int workshop -  
odont2000 , lærebok?

O V I D

**Medline**

1966 to December 1999 Week 1



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 Limit  
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#	Search History	Results	Display
1	exp guided tissue regeneration/ or guided tissue regeneration.mp.	1141	<a href="#">Display</a>
2	exp Membranes, artificial/	34592	<a href="#">Display</a>
3	Periodontal attachment loss/ or Periodontal diseases/ or Periodontal index/ or Periodontal ligament/ or Periodontal pocket/ or periodontal.mp.	28639	<a href="#">Display</a>
4	2 and 3	417	<a href="#">Display</a>
5	1 or 4	1212	<a href="#">Display</a>

Run Saved Search  
  Save Search History  
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Enter **Keyword** or phrase:  Map Term to Subject Heading

**Perform Search**

**Limit to:**

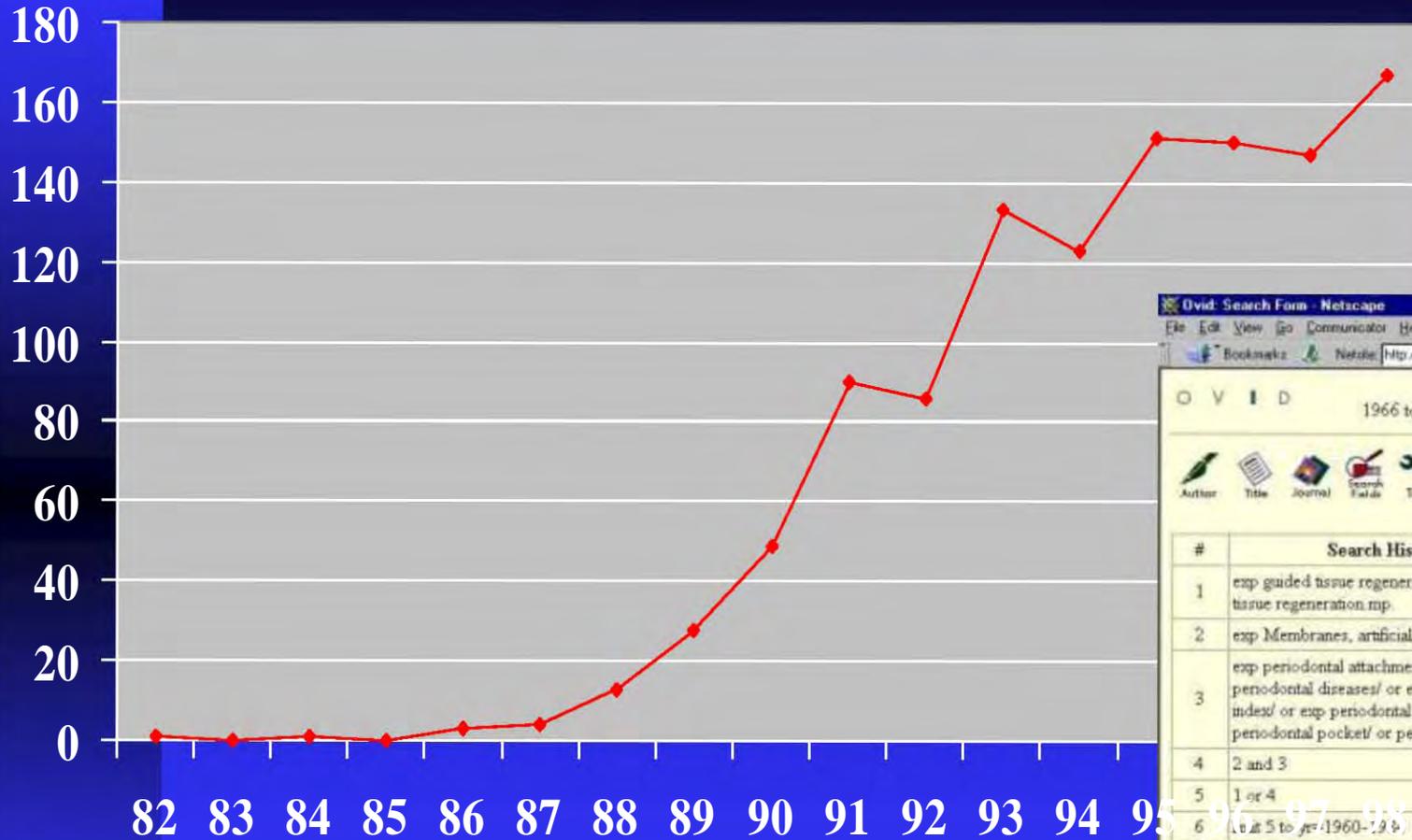
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From:  To:

Results of your search: **1 or 4**  
 Citations available: **1212**  
 Citations displayed: **1-10**

# Papers focussed on GTR

Papers



Ovid Search Form - Netscape  
 http://gateway.ovid.com/server3/ovidweb.cgi

Medline  
 1966 to December 1999 Week 1

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	exp guided tissue regeneration/ or guided tissue regeneration mp.	1141	<a href="#">Display</a>
2	exp Membranes, artificial/	34592	<a href="#">Display</a>
3	exp periodontal attachment loss/ or exp periodontal diseases/ or exp periodontal index/ or exp periodontal ligament/ or exp periodontal pocket/ or periodontal mp.	43386	<a href="#">Display</a>
4	2 and 3	550	<a href="#">Display</a>
5	1 or 4	1220	<a href="#">Display</a>
6	limit 5 to yr=1960-1986	1	<a href="#">Display</a>
7	limit 5 to yr=1985-1986	4	<a href="#">Display</a>
8	limit 5 to yr=1987-1988	17	<a href="#">Display</a>
9	limit 5 to yr=1989-1990	77	<a href="#">Display</a>
10	limit 5 to yr=1991-1992	176	<a href="#">Display</a>
11	limit 5 to yr=1993-1994	256	<a href="#">Display</a>
12	limit 5 to yr=1995-1996	301	<a href="#">Display</a>
13	limit 5 to yr=1997-1998	314	<a href="#">Display</a>
14	limit 5 to yr=1999	74	<a href="#">Display</a>

Run Saved Search   Save Search History   Delete All Searches

http://gateway.ovid.com/server3/ovidweb.cgi?nextCfr&dimens&ST&I

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Norsk Periodontisforening 25 år

# Applications for use of GTR

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# Study design

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# In vivo study categories

- Define the given task
- Descriptive bibliometric data
- How to characterize “science-based”

# Science:

any system of knowledge that is concerned with the physical world and its phenomena and that entails unbiased observations and systematic experimentation. In general, a science involves a pursuit of knowledge covering general truths or the operations of fundamental laws.

# Scientific method:

principles and procedures for the systematic pursuit of knowledge involving the recognition and formulation of a problem, the collection of data through observation and experiment, and the formulation and testing of hypotheses

- Define the given topic
- Descriptive bibliometric data
- How to characterize “science-based”
  - ☞ Types of clinical studies

# Clinical trial terminology - tower of Bable?

<b>analytical study</b>	<b>ecological study</b>	<b>prospective cohort study</b>
<b>case control study (89)</b>	<b>etiological study</b>	<b>prospective follow-up study, observational or experimental</b>
<b>case serie</b>	<b>experimental study</b>	<b>prospective study (67)</b>
<b>case study, case report</b>	<b>explorative study</b>	<b>quasi-experimental study</b>
<b>cause-effect study</b>	<b>feasability study (79)</b>	<b>randomized clinical trial, RTC</b>
<b>clinical trial (79)</b>	<b>follow-up study (67)</b>	<b>randomized controlled trial, RCT (89)</b>
<b>cohort study (89)</b>	<b>historical cohort study</b>	<b>retrospective cohort study</b>
<b>cohort study with historical controls</b>	<b>incidence study</b>	<b>retrospective follow-up study</b>
<b>controlled clinical trial (95)</b>	<b>intervention study</b>	<b>retrospective study (67)</b>
<b>cross-sectional study (89)</b>	<b>longitudinal study (79)</b>	<b>surveillance study</b>
<b>descriptive study</b>	<b>N=1 trial</b>	<b>survey, descriptive survey</b>
<b>diagnostic meta-analysis</b>	<b>non-randomized trial with contemporaneous controles</b>	<b>therapeutic meta-analysis</b>
<b>diagnostic study</b>	<b>non-randomized trial with historical controles</b>	<b>trohoc study</b>
<b>double blind randomized therapeutical trial with cross-over design</b>	<b>observational study</b>	
	<b>prevalence study</b>	

# Describing clinical research -reduce to three questions

1. General purpose?

Descriptive, no comparison conducted  
Comparison as process research  
Comparison as cause-effect research

2. Procedure, intervention?

Experimental allocation of procedure  
Survey

3. Data collection?

Retrospective  
Cross-sectional  
Prospective / Cohort / Longitudinal

# Clinical study designs (MESH terms):

- (Case study/series)
- Case-Control Study
- Cohort Study
- Cross-Sectional Survey
- Randomised Controlled Trial

# Cross-Sectional Survey

## Advantages

- 1.cheap and simple
- 2.ethically safe

## Disadvantages

- 1.establishes association at most, not causality
- 2.recall bias susceptibility
- 3.confounders may be unequally distributed
- 4.Neyman bias
- 5.group sizes may be unequal

# Case-Control Studies

## Advantages:

- 1.quick and cheap
- 2.only feasible method for very rare disorders or those with long lag between exposure and outcome
- 3.fewer subjects needed than cross-sectional studies

## Disadvantages:

- 1.reliance on recall or records to determine exposure status
- 2.confounders
- 3.selection of control groups is difficult
- 4.potential bias: recall, selection

# Characteristics of a poor case-control study:

Failed to:

- clearly define comparison groups
- and/or failed to measure exposures and outcomes in the same (preferably blinded), objective way in both cases and controls
- and/or failed to identify or appropriately control known confounders.

# Cohort Study

## Advantages:

- 1.ethically safe
- 2.subjects can be matched
- 3.can establish timing and directionality of events
- 4.eligibility criteria and outcome assessments can be standardised
- 5.administratively easier and cheaper than RCT

## Disadvantages:

- 1.controls may be difficult to identify
- 2.exposure may be linked to a hidden confounder
- 3.blinding is difficult
- 4.randomisation not present
- 5.for rare disease, large sample sizes or long follow-up necessary

# Characteristics of a poor cohort study:

Failed to:

- clearly define comparison groups and/or failed to measure exposures and outcomes in the same (preferably blinded), objective way in both exposed and non-exposed individuals
- and/or failed to identify or appropriately control known confounders
- and/or failed to carry out a sufficiently long and complete follow-up of patients.

# Randomised Controlled Trial

## Advantages

- 1.unbiased distribution of confounders
- 2.blinding more likely
- 3.randomisation facilitates statistical analysis

## Disadvantages

- 1.expensive: time and money
- 2.volunteer bias
- 3.ethically problematic at times

How are the different clinical study designs considered as evidence of therapeutical effectiveness?

# Strength of evidence of treatment effects

## US Agency of Health Care Policy & Research, 1992

- Ia. Meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials
- Ib. At least one randomized controlled trial
- IIa. At least one well-designed controlled study without randomization
- IIb. At least one other quasi-experimental study
- III. Well-designed non-experimental descriptive studies, such as comparative studies, correlation studies and case-control studies.
- IV. Expert committee reports or opinions and/or clinical experience of respected authorities

## EBM Working Group, McMaster University 1993

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses

RCT with definite results (ie. result with CI that do not overlap the threshold clinically significant effect)

RCT with non-definite results (ie. a point estimate that suggests a clinically significant effect, but with CI overlapping the threshold for this effect)

Cohort studies

Case-control studies

Cross sectional studies

Case reports

# Strength of evidence of treatment effects

**Richards & Lawrence, Br Dent J  
1995;175:270**

- at least one published systematic review of multiple well designed randomised controlled trials
- at least one published properly designed randomised controlled trial of appropriate size and in an appropriate clinical setting
- published well-designed trials without randomisation, single group pre-post, cohort, time series or matched case controlled studies
- well-designed experimental studies from more than one centre or research group
- opinions of respected authorities based on clinical evidence, descriptive studies or reports of expert consensus committees

**Sackett et al., Editorial. EBM  
1995;1:4**

- (I-1) Based on 2 or more well designed randomised controlled trials (RCT), meta-analyses, or systematic reviews.
- (I-2) Based on a RCT.
- (II-1) Based on a cohort study.
- (II-2) Based on a case controlled study.
- (II-3) Based on a dramatic uncontrolled experiment.
- (III) respected authorities, expert committees (consensus)etc.
- (IV) ...someone once told me

# Strength of evidence of treatment effects

**CEBM, 1999. (<http://cebm.jr2.ox.ac.uk/docs/levels.html>)**

- 1a. Systematic review (with homogeneity of RCTs)
- 1b. Individual RCT (with narrow confidence interval)
- 1c. All or none
- 2a. Systematic review (with homogeneity) of cohort studies
- 2b. Individual cohort study (and low quality RCT; e.g., <80% follow-up)
- 2c. “Outcomes” research
- 3a. Systematic review (with homogeneity) of case-control studies
- 3b. Individual case-control study
4. Case-series (and poor quality cohort and case-control studies)
5. Expert opinion without explicit critical appraisal, or based on physiology, bench research or “first principles”

- Define the given task
- Descriptive bibliometric data
- Characteristics of science
- **Critical appraisal of the evidence**

# Critical appraisal of papers reporting treatment effects

## Are the results of the trial valid?

1. Did the trial address a clearly focussed issue?

*i.e. focused in terms of the population studied, the intervention, the outcomes considered*

2. Was the assignment of patients to the intervention randomised?

3. Were all the patients who entered the trial properly accounted for at its conclusion?

*was follow-up complete?,*

*were patients analysed in the groups to which they were randomised?*

# Critical appraisal of papers reporting treatment effects

## Are the results of the trial valid?

4. Were patients, health workers and study personnel blind to the intervention?

*patients? health workers? study personnel?*

5. Were the groups similar at the start of the trial?

*In terms of other factors that might effect the outcome such as age, sex and social class*

6. Aside from the experimental intervention were the groups treated equally?

# Critical appraisal of papers reporting treatment effects

## What are the results?

7 . How large was the effect of the intervention?

*What outcomes are measured?*

8. How precise was the estimate of the effect of intervention?

*What are its confidence limits?*

# Critical appraisal of papers reporting treatment effects

## Will the results help my patients?

9. Can the results be applied to my patients?

*Do you think that the patients covered by the trial are similar enough to your population?*

10. Were all clinically important outcomes considered?

*If not, does this affect the decision?*

11. Are the benefits worth the harms and costs?

*This is unlikely to be addressed by the trial but what do you think?*

- Define the given task
- Descriptive bibliometric data
- Characteristics of science
- Critical appraisal of the evidence
- Which GTR techniques are science based

Evidence of no difference  $\neq$   
no evidence of difference

Evidence of no difference  $\neq$   
evidence of equivalence

- May be due to low power, i.e. insignificant difference, large variance and/or small sample sizes
- May be corrected with metaanalysis- primary or secondary- but aware of methodological problems! (Garbage in garbage out).

# Criteria for evaluating treatment effects

- High repeatability and accuracy
  - ◆ Histology
    - ☞ Morbidity, quantification?
  - ◆ Probing
    - ☞ Who wants to disrupt a new region?
  - ◆ Radiographic
    - ☞ Direct measurement vs. percent approach
- Consensus on appropriate criteria for reporting treatment results is critical

# Presentation of trial data

	Test	Control	Total
-2 - -1 mm	10	5	15
-1 - 0 mm	3	8	11
0 - 1 mm	2	8	10
1 - 2 mm	5	11	16
2 - 3 mm	16	8	24
3 - 4 mm	4	0	4
	40	40	80

# Presentation of trial data

	Test	Control	Total
-2 - -1 mm	10	5	15
-1 - 0 mm	3	8	11
0 - 1 mm	2	8	10
1 - 2 mm	5	11	16
2 - 3 mm	16	8	24
3 - 4 mm	4	0	4
	40	40	80

Conclusion, presentation of means and standard deviations

	Test	Control
Mean	1,15	0,73
SD	1,8	1,3
n	40	40
P =	.00894 (paired t-test, df. 39)	

***"XXX was significantly better than the conventional method ( $p < .01$ )"***

# Presentation of trial data

	Test	Control	Total
-2 - -1 mm	10	5	15
-1 - 0 mm	3	8	11
0 - 1 mm	2	8	10
1 - 2 mm	5	11	16
2 - 3 mm	16	8	24
3 - 4 mm	4	0	4
	40	40	80

Conclusion, focus on vertical percentages

	Test	Control	Total
< 2 mm	50%	80%	52
> 2 mm	50%	20%	28
	40	40	80

Alternative 2: Choice of clinical significance was set at 2 mm

	Test	Control	Total
< 2 mm	20	32	52
> 2 mm	20	8	28
	40	40	80

***"Improvement for half the patients treated with XXX compared to only one fifth with the conventional method."***

# Presentation of trial data

	Test	Control	Total
-2 - -1 mm	10	5	15
-1 - 0 mm	3	8	11
0 - 1 mm	2	8	10
1 - 2 mm	5	11	16
2 - 3 mm	16	8	24
3 - 4 mm	4	0	4
	40	40	80

Alternative 2: Choice of clinical significance was set at 2 mm

	XXX	Number Control	Total
< 2 mm	20	32	52
> 2 mm	20	8	28
	40	40	80

Conclusion, focus on horizontal percentages

	Test	Control	
	<u>Total</u>		
< 2 mm	32%	68%	52
> 2 mm	70%	30%	28
	40	40	80

***"70% percent of all the patients with improvement had been treated with XXX while the others had been treated with the conventional method."***

# Presentation of trial data

Alternative 2: Choice of clinical significance was set at 2 mm

	Number		
	Test	Control	Total
< 2 mm	20	32	52
> 2 mm	20	8	28
	40	40	80

Conclusion, focus on percentage improvement:

***" The treatment with XXX resulted in a x2.5 / alt. 250% improvement compared to conventional methods".***

# Presentation of trial data

	Test	Control	Total
-2 - -1 mm	10	5	15
-1 - 0 mm	3	8	11
0 - 1 mm	2	8	10
1 - 2 mm	5	11	16
2 - 3 mm	16	8	24
3 - 4 mm	4	0	4
	40	40	80

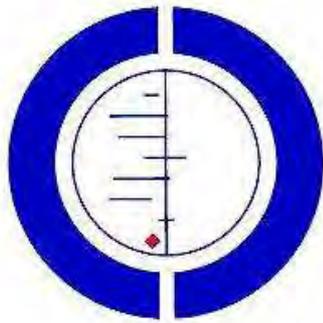
Alternative 3:

Choice of clinical significance set at 1 mm

	Test	Control	Total
< 1 mm	15	21	36
> 1 mm	25	19	44
	40	40	80

Conclusion:

***" No statistically significant results were observed".***



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1999, Issue 3

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## Guided tissue regeneration (GTR) for periodontal infra-bony defects [protocol]

Date of most recent reference searched: 29 May 1999

Date online expected: 01 September 1999

[Cover sheet](#) - [Background](#) - [Methods](#) - [References](#)

### Background

Chronic Periodontitis

Chronic periodontitis (CP) is a destructive gum condition, which is estimated to affect 10 - 30% of the world-wide population ([Barham 1986](#), [Loe 1986](#) and [Coxer 1991](#)). CP is caused by the bacteria within dental plaque, stimulating inflammation within the periodontal tissues. In the susceptible individual this will result in the breakdown of both the connective tissues which attach to the tooth and the supporting bone around the root. This usually results in the formation of a periodontal pocket around the root which acts as a reservoir for bacteria. The morbidity of this condition is early underestimated and includes an uncomfortable loosening of the teeth (which may impair eating), cosmetic problems (as teeth drift or gums recede), a tendency to abscess formation within the pocket and eventual tooth loss.

Treatment of periodontitis

The objectives for treating periodontitis are mainly concerned with stabilising or arresting the condition and the crucial role of the patient's home care plaque control is well recognised ([Lindhe 1975](#)). The debritement of bacterial deposits coating the surface of the root, deep within the periodontal pocket is also essential and is achieved in the first instance, by scaling techniques. In addition, periodontal surgery is used where the depth of the deposits within the pocket, prevents adequate access for debridement.

The Infra-bony defect and its treatment

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## The Cochrane Controlled Trials Register (CENTRAL/CCTR)

### References (131 records selected)

- 1 [1998 A clinical evaluation of an allograft combined with a bioabsorbable membrane versus an alloplast/allograft composite graft combined with a bioabsorbable membrane. 100 consecutively treated cases.](#)
- 2 **New** [1998 A comparison of 2 root coverage techniques: guided tissue regeneration with a bioabsorbable matrix style membrane versus a connective tissue graft combined with a coronally positioned pedicle graft without vertical](#)
- 3 [1998 Bone regeneration after radicular cyst removal with and without guided bone regeneration.](#)
- 4 [1998 Clinical and microbiological evaluation of a bioabsorbable and a nonresorbable barrier membrane in the treatment of periodontal intraosseous lesions.](#)
- 5 [1998 Clinical comparison of bioabsorbable barriers with non-resorbable barriers in guided tissue regeneration in the treatment of human intrabony defects.](#)
- 6 [1998 Clinical comparison of cellulose and expanded polytetrafluoroethylene membranes in the treatment of class II furcations in mandibular molars with 6-month re-entry.](#)
- 7 **New** [1998 Comparison of 2 regenerative procedures--guided tissue regeneration and demineralized freeze-dried bone allograft--in the treatment of intrabony defects: a clinical and radiographic study.](#)
- 8 **New** [1998 Early bacterial accumulation on guided tissue regeneration membrane materials. An in vivo study.](#)
- 9 [1998 Effects of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene and polylactic acid barriers on healthy sites.](#)
- 10 [1998 Evaluation of periosteal membranes and coronally positioned flaps in the treatment of Class II furcation defects: a comparative clinical study in humans.](#)
- 11 **New** [1998 Expanded polytetrafluoroethylene and dental rubber dam barrier membranes in the treatment of periodontal intrabony defects. A comparative clinical trial.](#)
- 12 [1998 GTR therapy of intrabony defects using 2 different bioresorbable membranes: 12-month results.](#)
- 13 **New** [1998 Generalizability of the added benefits of guided tissue regeneration in the treatment of deep intrabony defects. Evaluation in a multi-center randomized controlled clinical trial.](#)
- 14 [1998 Guided tissue regeneration for the treatment of intraosseous defects using a bioabsorbable membrane. A controlled clinical study.](#)
- 15 [1998 Guided tissue regeneration in Class II furcation involved maxillary molars: a controlled study of 8 split-mouth cases.](#)
- 16 **New** [1998 Guided tissue regeneration in the treatment of human intrabony defects. Clinical, radiographical and microbiological results: a pilot study.](#)
- 17 [1998 Mucogingival versus guided tissue regeneration procedures in the treatment of deep recession type defects.](#)
- 18 **New** [1998 Periodontal surgery of vertical bony defects with or without synthetic bioabsorbable barriers. 12-month results.](#)
- 19 [1998 Regenerative periodontal surgery with non-resorbable and biodegradable barriers: results after 24 months.](#)
- 20 **New** [1998 Subpedicle connective tissue graft versus guided tissue regeneration with bioabsorbable membrane in the treatment of human gingival recession defects.](#)
- 21 **New** [1998 The bone growing chamber: a new model to investigate spontaneous and guided bone regeneration of artificial defects in the human jawbone](#)