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Not long ago, evidence-based dentistry (EBD) was a fairly new term to the dental profession, but today it pops up virtually everywhere. From EBD journals and JADA to ADA.org and international conferences, resources abound for dentists who want to learn more about integrating the best available scientific evidence with their professional knowledge and preferences of their patients. EBD isn't an ivory-tower concept; it's an approach dentists can implement every day to provide optimal patient care.

In this Issue

- ▶ [EBD: A Multidimensional Process](#)
- ▶ [Evidence-Based Approach in Everyday Dental Care](#)
- ▶ [Misconceptions and Practical Challenges](#)

EBD: A MULTIDIMENSIONAL PROCESS



In recent decades, a new process for reviewing scientific evidence has emerged in medicine and other health care disciplines that relies on systematic approaches to evaluate and summarize the vast amount of literature providers need to assimilate into clinical practice. This process became known as evidence-based medicine (EBM). Soon after EBM's emergence, the principles of EBM were applied to other health care fields, including dentistry.

[Full Story](#)

[Return to Top](#)

What do YOU think?



What resources would best assist you in implementing an evidence-based approach to oral health care?

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Hot Button

EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH IN EVERYDAY DENTAL CARE



Clinical scenarios often arise that can be addressed through the evidence-based review process of four fundamental steps: **Define, Synthesize, Translate, Evaluate.**

[Full Story](#)

[Return to Top](#)

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[Topic Nominated for Systematic Review](#)

[Evidence-Based Approach in Dental Education](#)

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[ADA Professional Product Review To Launch](#)

[ACE Panel Volunteers Sought](#)

[Scientific Session on Dental Sealants](#)

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MISCONCEPTIONS AND PRACTICAL CHALLENGES



The emergence of EBD as a practice paradigm has understandably raised some barriers and challenges along the way. As a dentist, you may ask, "Haven't I always been practicing EBD?" Dentists have historically applied scientific principles to patient care. However, the EBD process assesses all available evidence on a clinical question and minimizes bias, allowing dentists to access and use research results of which they may be unaware.

[Full Story](#)

[Return to Top](#)



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