LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An online tool that provides access to evidence-based literature on dental restorations:
www.crownorfill.com

Dear Editor:

Evidence-based treatment planning in dentistry helps clinicians provide the most contemporary treatment justified by a thorough review of alternative treatments, diagnostic information, patient wishes, and evidence-based outcome data.1 No matter how conscious the dental community is about the importance of evidence-based dentistry (EBD), it is rarely applied, mostly because of time limitations.2 Therefore, quicker access to evidence-based knowledge may help dental clinicians, mentors, researchers, and students to implement effectively evidence-based practice.2

The Crown-or-Fill (CoF) website was recently launched (http://crownorfill.com/ or http://ebhnow.com/apps/0010/index.php) under the umbrella of Evidence-Based Healthcare (now EBHnow; http://ebhnow.com/). The website was created by a group of researchers, developers, and experts in evidence-based healthcare at McGill University, Concordia University, and the University of Bern for the purpose of providing instant access to evidence-based publications on the treatment outcomes of dental restorations. More specifically, the 5-year failure rate of the single-unit restorative alternatives is provided after 2 pre-existing conditions of the posterior teeth have been selected (Fig 1): whether (a) the tooth will have a root canal treatment or not, and (b) the integrity of the remaining coronal tooth structure. The search is initiated by (c) clicking the search button after the number of remaining dentin-supported walls has been selected (Fig. 2).

To aid clinicians and students in their daily practice, the next screen (Fig. 3) displays the weighted arithmetic mean 5-year failure rate, separated as all studies combined (a) and only randomized control studies (b) of the different restorative alternatives. One of the prevalent clinical questions is whether to place a crown or an intracoronal restoration. In this example (Fig. 3), the amalgam with a post and the crown without a post present a double- and triple-rate of failure compared with the crown with post and core. The primary studies used to calculate cumulative failure rates are described in Figure 4A, and the restart button can also be found in Figure 4B.

These data from CoF are based on 2 recently published systematic reviews.3,4 Both reviews were planned to solve a previously identified need.2 Unfortunately, most efforts are usually lost.5 Therefore, our team took a step farther to facilitate an evidence-based practice through the creation of the website http://ebhnow.com/. In addition, this tool could help our colleagues and future

Figure 1. (a-c) Welcome page at http://crownorfill.com/ platform.

Figure 2. A-E, Five options regarding the amount of coronal tooth structure present.
colleagues for teaching and learning purposes as well as informing patients.

Two other sites are also available under EBHnow. One site, Implant or Bridge (IoB), accessible at the URL http://ebhnow.com/apps/0020/index.php, provides instant access to reports of the side effects of drugs on bone, osseointegration, and dental implants, and the other site, Drugs and Bones (D&B), accessible at http://ebhnow.com/apps/0040/index.php, provides evidence-based studies of treatment outcomes for the restoration of single missing teeth as a function of pre-existing conditions (abutment vitality, site of the missing tooth, need or not for bone grafting for the edentulous area). In the near future, our team plans to create additional sites for quick reference to support the clinical decisions of restorative dentists.

We hope readers of the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry will explore CoF and find it interesting. Perhaps this tool may help with treatment planning while balancing the best evidence, the patient preferences/limitations, and the clinical experience.

Kelvin I. Afrashtehfar, DDS, MSc
Department of Reconstructive Dentistry & Gerodontology
School of Dental Medicine, University of Bern
Bern, Switzerland

Faleh Tamimi, BDS, PhD
Division of Prosthodontics & Restorative Dentistry
Faculty of Dentistry, McGill University
Montréal, Quebec, Canada

REFERENCES

Letter to the Editor
THE JOURNAL OF PROSTHETIC DENTISTRY

Downloaded for scmh lib (scmhlib1@gmail.com) at Show Chwan Memorial Hospital JC from ClinicalKey.com by Elsevier on December 24, 2017. For personal use only. No other uses without permission. Copyright ©2017. Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.