DESCRIPTION

The Singapore Dental Journal (SDJ) is the official, peer-reviewed publication of the Singapore Dental Association. It is published annually, in December, by Elsevier (Singapore) Pte Ltd. The SDJ is indexed in MEDLINE and PUBMED.

The SDJ aims to advance the practice of dentistry and care of patients among members of the Association and dentists in the region through the dissemination of information and research findings in the field of dental science and technology. The scope of the journal covers all fields related to the present day practice of dentistry, and includes Restorative Dentistry (Operative Dentistry, Dental Materials, Prosthodontics and Endodontics), Preventive Dentistry (Periodontics, Orthodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Public Health and Health Services), Oral Medicine, Oral Surgery and Oral Pathology. Articles pertaining to dental education and the social, political and economic aspects of dental practice are also welcomed. Articles are divided into four types: Reviews, Scientific/Clinical Articles, Case Reports/Techniques, Posters. For more details, please contact the Editorial Office at sdj@sda.org.sg.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

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**GUIDE FOR AUTHORS**

*Singapore Dental Journal (SDJ)* aims to advance the practice of dentistry and care of patients among members of the Singapore Dental Association and dentists in the region through the dissemination of information and research findings in the field of dental science and technology. The *SDJ* invites original contributions in the form of research articles, reviews, case reports and other materials relating to all aspects of dentistry. Related disciplines, including dental education and the social, political and economic aspects of dental practice, that are of interest to professionals in dentistry are also welcome. The *SDJ* is a peer-reviewed journal and all manuscripts will be reviewed by at least two reviewers. All published opinions and statements of supposed facts belong to the author(s), and are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Staff, Board Members, the Singapore Dental Association or the Publisher.


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This journal has an embargo period of 12 months.

**Manuscript Submission Procedure**
Authors are requested to submit their original manuscript and figures via the online submission and editorial system for *SDJ*. Using this online system, authors may submit manuscripts and track their progress through the system to publication. Reviewers can download manuscripts and submit their opinions to the editor. Editors can manage the whole submission/review/revise/publish process. Please register at: [http://www.evise.com/evise/faces/pages/navigation/NavController.jspx?JRNL_ACR=SDJ](http://www.evise.com/evise/faces/pages/navigation/NavController.jspx?JRNL_ACR=SDJ). Submission should be accompanied by a cover letter.

**Important Information for Online Submission**
- Please put text, references, tables, figures, and legends in one file, with each table and figure on a new page.
- Figures that are line drawings or photographs must also be submitted separately as high resolution picture files, in *.JPEG*, *.EPS* or *.TIFF* format. Please ensure that files are supplied at the correct resolution: line artwork = minimum of 1000 dpi; halftone artwork = minimum of 300 dpi; combination artwork (line + tone) = minimum of 500 dpi.
- Figures will be published as received from authors.

**Previous Publication/Duplicate Submission and Ethical Approval**
Submitted manuscripts are considered with the understanding that they have not been published previously in print or electronic format (except in abstract or poster form) and are not under consideration by another publication or electronic medium. All experiments using animals and human subjects or human tissues must have been approved by an appropriate ethics committee/board. Any patient who can be clearly identified in the article (either in text or in photographs) must sign a consent form indicating consent to his or her being thus depicted in the article. This consent form(s) (PDF) must be submitted with the manuscript.

**Categories of Articles Accepted**

**Reviews**
These should aim to provide the reader with a balanced overview of an important and topical subject in dentistry, and should be systematic, critical assessments of literature and data sources, emphasizing factors such as cause, diagnosis, prognosis, therapy, or prevention. All articles and data sources reviewed should include information about the specific type of study or analysis,
population, intervention, exposure, and tests or outcomes. All articles or data sources should be selected systematically for inclusion in the review and critically evaluated. Figures, tables, algorithms and other forms of illustration should be included as appropriate. Typical length: 2000–3000 words.

**Scientific/Clinical Articles**
These may be randomized trials, intervention studies, studies of screening and diagnostic tests, cohort studies, cost-effectiveness analyses, case-control studies, surveys with high response rates, and laboratory tests that represent new and significant contributions to dentistry.

Each manuscript should state the objective/hypothesis, design and methods (including the study setting and dates, patients/participants with inclusion and exclusion criteria, or data sources and how these were selected for the study), the essential features of any interventions, the main outcome measures, the main results, discussion placing the results in context with the published literature, and conclusions. Typical length: 2000–3000 words.

**Case Reports/Techniques**
These are short discussions of a case or case series with unique features not previously described. Typical length: 800–1200 words.

**Posters**
Posters are brief reports/communications of scientific studies and normally presented during scientific meetings. Selected posters presented at Singapore Dental Association meetings and conferences may be invited for publication in the SDJ. These are normally limited to 500 words.

**Manuscript Preparation**

**Peer review**
This journal operates a double blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. More information on types of peer review.

1. **Format and Style.** Text should be typed double-spaced on one side of A4 (297 × 210 mm) paper, with outer margins of 3 cm. Each section of the manuscript should begin on a new page. Authors should refer to a style guide and the preferred format should follow that of the Oxford Style Guide which is available online in pdf (see http://www.ox.ac.uk/public_affairs/services_and_resources/style_guide/index.html).

2. **Language.** Articles should be written in English (British English spelling) and meet the following basic criteria: the material is original, the information is important, the writing is clear (clinical or laboratory jargon is to be avoided), the study methods are appropriate, the data are valid, and the conclusions are reasonable and supported by the data.

3. **Structure**

**Title Page** The title page should contain the following information:
- manuscript title
- category of paper • short running title not exceeding 50 characters
- the names (spelled out in full) of all the authors and their institutions (only 1 affiliation per author is permitted)
- corresponding author’s details (e-mail address, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers).

**Abstract**

The first page following the title page should contain a concise English abstract of no more than 500 words and up to four relevant key words/index terms. The abstract should contain information on the background, methods, results, conclusions and clinical implications.

**Introduction**

Manuscripts should include a clear introductory statement or purpose, and an inclusive concise review of the relevant literature leading to the main question/hypothesis posed. The introduction should close with the objective of the study.
Materials and Methods

The type of study (cohort, case-controlled, cross-sectional, etc.) should be stated. The technique and scope of the experiments or observations should be described. Statements of Inclusion/exclusion and eligibility criteria used in sample selection, sample size, power of statistic, dropout rate, withdrawals, methods of randomization, collection, quality control, and blinding techniques (if any) should provide sufficient details for the study to be repeated.

Results

Results must be clearly presented. Data analysis should be briefly described. Statistical analysis information should include: level of significance chosen, and type of test (parametric, non-parametric) and statistical test ($t$ test, ANOVA, Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney U) used. The power of statistical tests, confidence intervals, and $p$ values should be included where relevant. If a software programme was used, please state the particular software used, version number, and the manufacturers name, city, state, and country.

If a survey was carried out, submit a copy of the questionnaire. This will not be published if the manuscript is accepted for publication, but will be used by the peer reviewers in the assessment of the manuscript.

Discussion

Comment on the significance of the findings and any correlation with those of other studies and elaborate why it may be so. Indicate recommendations or implications if the study suggests changes from the current practice of dentistry or understanding of the science. State limitations of the study, why and how it hampers appropriate interpretation of the outcome.

Conclusion

This should be concise and include your main findings, implications of the results, and any recommendations.

Acknowledgements

Please include a statement identifying grants, pharmaceutical sponsorship, and other acknowledgements as appropriate.

References

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• Each reference citation should be a superscript at the end of the referenced statement.
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Examples are given below.

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Books:

Report:

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Tables should be labelled in Arabic numerals and titled concisely. Number all tables in the order of their citation in the text. Tables should be typed double-spaced in as simple a form as possible. Abbreviations used in the table and not defined in the text should be defined in footnotes using these symbols (in order of appearance): *, †, ‡, §, ¶.

Figures

The number of figures should be restricted to the minimum necessary to support the textual material. Patient identification should be obscured unless the patient has consented to being so depicted in the article. Include internal scale markers in photomicrographs and electron micrographs.

Illustrations, graphs, charts, etc. should be drawn with black ink on white paper and should preferably be done by a professional illustrator. Arrows and other symbols must be of professional quality and of a size permitting some reduction in the final copy.

All figures must be accompanied by legends and indicate the anatomic area and/or pathologic condition shown. For photomicrographs, include the type of specimen, original magnification, and stain. All symbols and abbreviations not defined in the text should be defined in the legend.

Units

Please use Système International (SI) units, with the exception of blood pressure values which are to be reported in mmHg. Please use the metric system for the expression of length, area, mass, and volume. Temperatures are to be given in degrees Celsius.

Drug Names

Use the Recommended International Non-proprietary Name for medicinal substances, unless the specific trade name of a drug is directly relevant to the discussion.

Abbreviations

Where a term/definition will be continually referred to, it must be written in full, followed by the subsequent abbreviation in brackets, when it first appears in the text. Thereafter, the abbreviation may be used.

**Supplementary material**

Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to
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