Clinical Advances in Periodontics publishes selected papers that describe practical applications of clinical decision making. In the practice of periodontics, clinicians often must make treatment decisions based on a limited availability of high-quality evidence. The goal of Best-Evidence Topics is to sort through the best evidence available at the present time to draw a practical conclusion.

Best-Evidence Topics should be a maximum of 1,500 words, not counting tables or references. A maximum of 10 image items, including tables, photos, and illustrations may be included as well as 20 supplemental items. See item 11 below or General Instructions for information on preparing digital art.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To draft a Best-Evidence Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Papers must include the following sections in order:</td>
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</table>

1. **Title Page/Key Words:**
   a. **Title Page:** The title should describe the question to be addressed. Please see the General Instructions for other required title page information.
   b. **Key Words:** A maximum of six key words or short phrases, drawn from MeSH documentation, should be listed on the title page.

2. **Focused four-part “PICO” question:** State a specific question that includes the following information:
   a. **Patient or problem — what type of patient or problem are you addressing?**
   b. **Intervention(s) — which treatment or product are you considering?**
   c. **Comparison(s) — is there an alternative treatment to compare against?**
   d. **Outcomes — relevant to your patient.**
   
   *Example:* In patients presenting with generalized moderate to severe chronic periodontitis and continuing to smoke, does host modulation improve the maintenance of alveolar bone support and clinical attachment level?

3. **Clinical Scenario:** Provide a short descriptive paragraph (up to 100 words and 6 figures) of the clinical situation that led to the PICO question.

4. **Background:** Describe the importance and relevance of the topic (up to 500 words) and limit the background to key references.

5. **Search Strategy:** The literature search should be comprehensive and retrieve all relevant papers. List all search strategies used so that they could be replicated.

6. **Search Outcome:** Briefly summarize the search outcome, including the total number of papers identified and the number eliminated and why.

Continued on next page
7. **Summary Table:** In a table (as shown below), list all studies used to make the critical appraisal and answer the question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Patient Group</th>
<th>Study Type (Level of Evidence)</th>
<th>Methods</th>
<th>Key Results</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gürkan et al., 2005⁷</td>
<td>N=46; 35 participants with generalized severe chronic periodontitis and 11 healthy participants</td>
<td>Prospective randomized controlled trial</td>
<td>Participants received full-mouth debridement at baseline and were randomized to receive doxycycline 20 mg (SDD) twice a day or placebo twice a day for 3 months. All participants received SRP and OHI weekly for 4 weeks, and recall at 3 and 6 months after baseline.</td>
<td>PD, CAL, PBI, and PI for both groups were significantly improved over baseline at 3 and 6 months. PBI and PD at sites ≥ 7 mm were significantly improved at 6 months for participants receiving SDD versus those receiving placebo. GCF TGF-β1 levels in the SDD group were significantly higher than baseline at 3 months.</td>
<td>Thirteen participants in each group completed the study. All analyses were performed on those participants completing therapy. Four of the 13 participants in the treatment group were smokers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. **Discussion:** Provide a short (up to 500 words) commentary and summation of the evidence, its strengths and weaknesses, and any conclusions.

9. **Clinical Bottom Line:** Provide a one-or two-sentence answer to the question posed.

   *Example: In smokers with periodontal disease receiving non-surgical periodontal therapy, the adjunctive use of systemic host modulation strategies may improve clinical results of therapy and mitigate some of the compromised outcomes of periodontal therapy in smokers.*

10. **References:** Provide full citations for all papers as described in General Instructions.

11. **Figures/Tables/Videos:** Images and videos should be submitted as separate files. Tables should be included in the main manuscript file. Authors are encouraged to be selective and only include the most relevant images.

   **a. Primary Figures and Tables.** Authors should select no more than 10 figures and tables for inclusion in the main portion of the paper. These items should be called out and labeled as “Figure 1,” “Figure 2,” etc. or “Table 1,” “Table 2,” etc.

   **b. Supplemental Figures and Tables.** Authors may include up to 20 additional items as supplemental material. These items will be linked to callouts in the paper and appear in a pop-up box when clicked. These items should be called out and labeled as “Supplemental Figure 1,” “Supplemental Figure 2,” etc. or “Supplemental Table 1,” “Supplemental Table 2,” etc.

   **c. Videos.** Short videos may also be included as supplemental material. Videos should be called out and labeled as “Video 1,” “Video 2,” etc.