

# Editorial Note on Periodontics and Prosthodontics- Periodontal Research

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## Editorial

Research in the field of periodontology has witnessed a tremendous upsurge in the last two decades unveiling newer innovations in techniques, methodologies, and material science. The recent focus in periodontal research is an evidence-based approach which offers a bridge from science to clinical practice. This three part review series intends to take a reader through a maze of periodontal research, unraveling and simplifying various issues in the design, conduct and interpretation of various study designs routinely used in the field of periodontal research. This understanding would facilitate a researcher with a focused and an enhanced vision toward formulating studies which can more efficiently translate sound scientific phenomena into clinically meaningful results.

Research is a voyage of discovery from the known to the unknown. Research can also be defined as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. Research comprises defining and redefining problems, formulating hypothesis or solutions; collecting, organizing, and evaluating data; making deductions and reaching conclusions; and at last carefully testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypothesis. Over the past few decades, the branch of Periodontology witnessed a tremendous leap in various aspects of clinical, epidemiological and molecular research and many mysteries pertaining to the etiopathogenesis and treatment aspects of periodontal disease have since been unveiled.

The purpose of this review series is to give the reader an insight into the various aspects of the research process and provide a better understanding to execution of efficient, ethical and meaningful research and apply the results of the appraisal to good clinical practice.

A good research beginning refers to formulating a well-defined research question, developing a hypothesis and choosing an appropriate study design. The first part of the review series has discussed these issues in depth and this paper intends to throw light on other issues pertaining to the implementation of research. These include the various ethical norms and standards in human experimentation, the eligibility criteria for the participants, sampling methods and sample size calculation, various outcome measures that need to be defined and the biases that can be introduced in research.

In the first part of the review series, we have discussed on how to formulate a research question and the design of relevant studies. An important part of the research process is not only to formulate the question and choose the appropriate design but also decide how to assess and measure the phenomena you are aiming to research. Selecting the sample size and the outcome measures prior to the onset of the study is preferable to generate meaningful results. It is also important to adhere to certain ethical standards to protect the welfare of the participants. All these issues are discussed at length in the present paper to facilitate a researcher with an indispensable knowledge of the various complexities of research.