



Products Dentists Can't Live Without

Gordon's Clinical Observations: We know you have products in your practice that are indispensable to you, that you use every day, and you take for granted. A recent CR survey identified these types of products. What if those products became unavailable and had no substitutes on the market? You may not know of these valuable products. *Consider the products in this article for your practice, since many dentists find them to be necessary and indispensable.*

The major goal of this article is to identify individual products or concepts practicing dentists consider to be essential and indispensable.

- Thousands of companies make products for dental professionals, and this is confusing.
- Many dentists (*especially newly graduated dentists*) **do not** know the products that are considered to be indispensable by their colleagues. The survey shows these products.
- Some product brands dominate specific categories and should be considered.

This article includes for your consideration the indispensable products and concepts that have been identified by your peers with CR comments and suggestions about each category.

The following CR survey research (*n=628, 94% general practitioners*) was accomplished on select, commonly used dental products and concepts. The research and CR comments are organized by:

- 1. Essential/indispensable.** Products and concepts that at least 30% or more of dentists consider essential, indispensable, and nearly impossible to replace with another product. **Products identified by 40% or more have photos.**
- 2. Essential/indispensable concepts with numerous product brands.** These concepts are considered essential and important, but with a wide variety of adequate brand names.
- 3. The top products** in each category are listed in decreasing order of responses.

CROWN CATEGORIES

CR: Zirconia continues to grow in use and rightfully so. In CR/TRAC long-term clinical research, the original zirconia formulation (*BruXZir, 3Y, Class 5 tetragonal*) is the most successful tooth-colored restoration in the history of dentistry. Be careful with the new formulations of "esthetic" zirconia until they are proven clinically.



Over 30% consider indispensable: Zirconia 59%

Top 5: Zirconia, PFM, lithium disilicate, ceramic blocks milled in-office, cast gold

IMPLANTS, SMALL DIAMETER (*Minis, 1.8mm-2.9mm*)

CR: Minis are now well proven to have the same clinical success as conventional diameter implants. They are most adequate for stability and retention of mandibular complete dentures. PCC teaches Zest, Intra-Lock, and Glidewell in their hands-on courses.

Many competitive products available.

Top 4: Zest, Intra-Lock, Sterngold, Glidewell (*Inclusive Mini Implant*)

SNORE/SLEEP APPLIANCES

CR: At least 40% of the adult population snores, and about one out of 15 of those have sleep apnea. This is a major new area for some dentists. It requires additional education and a team—including dentist, board certified sleep physician, and dental lab technician.

A sleep study is required to determine the most adequate treatment.

Many competitive products available.

Top 3: Silent Nite Sleep Appliance, TAP various, SomnoDent EMA

❖ *This is only a portion of the original report.* ❖

CR CONCLUSIONS: This CR survey research identifies numerous concepts that are considered to be indispensable, specific products that dominate a category, and some products that are indispensable but spread across many brands. CR has added comments and suggestions for clinicians where CR research augments the survey data. Consider your own practice needs and see if this survey information validates your product choices or guides you and your staff to include some more proven products and concepts.

What is CR?

WHY CR?

CR was founded in 1976 by clinicians who believed practitioners could confirm efficacy and clinical usefulness of new products and avoid both the experimentation on patients and failures in the closet. With this purpose in mind, CR was organized as a unique volunteer purpose of testing all types of dental products and disseminating results to colleagues throughout the world.

WHO FUNDS CR?

Research funds come from subscriptions to the Gordon J. Christensen Clinicians Report®. Revenue from CR's "Dentistry Update™" courses support payroll for non-clinical staff. All Clinical Evaluators volunteer their time and expertise. CR is a non-profit, educational research institute. It is not owned in whole or in part by any individual, family, or group of investors. This system, free of outside funding, was designed to keep CR's research objective and candid.

HOW DOES CR FUNCTION?

Each year, CR tests in excess of 750 different product brands, performing about 20,000 field evaluations. CR tests all types of dental products, including materials, devices, and equipment, plus techniques. Worldwide, products are purchased from distributors, secured from companies, and sent to CR by clinicians, inventors, and patients. There is no charge to companies for product evaluations. Testing combines the efforts of 450 clinicians in 19 countries who volunteer their time and expertise, and 40 on-site scientists, engineers, and support staff. Products are subjected to at least two levels of CR's unique three-tiered evaluation process that consists of:

1. Clinical field trials where new products are incorporated into routine use in a variety of dental practices and compared by clinicians to products and methods they use routinely.
2. Controlled clinical tests where new products are used and compared under rigorously controlled conditions, and patients are paid for their time as study participants.
3. Laboratory tests where physical and chemical properties of new products are compared to standard products.

Clinical Success is the Final Test



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CRA Foundation® changed its name to CR Foundation® in 2008.



This team is testing resin curing lights to determine their ability to cure a variety of resin-based composites.

Every month several new projects are completed.

THE PROBLEM WITH NEW DENTAL PRODUCTS.

New dental products have always presented a challenge to clinicians because, with little more than promotional information to guide them, they must judge between those that are new and better, and those that are just new. Because of the industry's keen competition and rush to be first on the market, clinicians and their patients often become test data for new products.

Every clinician has, at one time or another, become a victim of this system. All own new products that did not meet expectations, but are stored in hope of some unknown future use, or thrown away at a considerable loss. To help clinicians make educated product purchases, CR tests new dental products and reports the results to the profession.

Products evaluated by CR Foundation® (CR®) and reported in the *Gordon J. Christensen Clinicians Report®* have been selected on the basis of merit from hundreds of products under evaluation. CR® conducts research at three levels: 1) multiple-user field evaluations, 2) controlled long-term clinical research, and 3) basic science laboratory research. Over 400 clinical field evaluators are located throughout the world and 40 full-time employees work at the institute. A product must meet at least one of the following standards to be reported in this publication: 1) innovative and new on the market, 2) less expensive, but meets the use standards, 3) unrecognized, valuable classic, or 4) superior to others in its broad classification. Your results may differ from CR Evaluators or other researchers on any product because of differences in preferences, techniques, product batches, or environments. CR Foundation® is a tax-exempt, non-profit education and research organization which uses a unique volunteer structure to produce objective, factual data. All proceeds are used to support the work of CR Foundation®. ©2019 This report or portions thereof may not be duplicated without permission of CR Foundation®. Annual English language subscription: US\$229 worldwide, plus GST Canada subscriptions. Single issue: \$29 each. See www.CliniciansReport.org for additional subscription information.