

The ACP's Evidence-Based Guidelines for the Care and Maintenance of Complete Dentures

If you are not a member of the American Dental Association (ADA), you should be, as the ADA is the voice of dentistry in the US, with a membership that vastly exceeds that of all the Specialty organizations combined. Nearly everything in dentistry, from accrediting dental schools and auxiliary training programs, to developing coding that impacts us all, to accrediting providers of continuing dental education, to hosting the largest annual dental meeting in the world, has the ADA's "mark" on it. The ADA effectively advocates in Congress for all of dentistry, including the American College of Prosthodontists. So, hold that thought!

In November of 2009, newly elected President of the ACP, Dr. Lyndon Cooper, formed a Task Force to look at the available clinical evidence associated with the care and maintenance of complete dentures. This Task Force was co-chaired by Dr. Cooper and Dr. David Felton, your Editor-in-Chief, and was populated by representatives of the Council on Scientific Affairs of the ADA, the American Dental Hygiene Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, the National Association of Dental Laboratories, members of the UNC Prosthodontics faculty who are members of the ACP, and representatives from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). The UNC "team" conducted an exhaustive search of the dental literature, looking at denture-related topics including complete denture biofilm, stomatitis, cleaning, adhesives, relines, rebases and repairs, denture maintenance, nocturnal wear of dentures, and others. Using inclusion and exclusion criteria, over 300 abstracts were reviewed, full-text manuscripts obtained and reviewed for content, and over 100 manuscripts ultimately selected for inclusion in a final manuscript on the "Evidence-Based Guidelines for the Care and Maintenance of Complete Dentures." After a careful review of the manuscripts, and synopsis of the findings, the entire Task Force met in Chapel Hill in May of 2010, completed the review process, and formulated the guidelines, based on the best available evidence. Since that time, the draft guidelines were submitted to the various organizations with representatives on the Task Force for comment. Ultimately, the guidelines and corresponding reference materials were submitted to the *Journal of Prosthodontics*, and successfully underwent the peer review process. Now, the interesting part.

The ADA was so impressed with our efforts in developing these evidence-based guidelines that it has agreed to publish them, as a supplement to the January issue of JADA. This supplement will be funded by GSK, and the guidelines will be circulated to over 160,000 individuals in the dental health arena. The ACP maintains the copyright to the text, and our Central Office is working on the logistics on how to best leverage this as a salable item. Our plan is to ultimately print a brochure

for patient use that points out key information to patients on the care and maintenance of their complete dentures. While an exhaustive process, it is great to see it come to fruition, to see the ACP's name on the document, and to hear the kudos we've heard from all organizations that took part in the process, including the ADA. In maintaining the copyright, the ACP has the ability to reprint it in the *Journal of Prosthodontics* at our discretion (however, it is a very lengthy manuscript), to place it on the ACP website, and include it in Prosthopedia (as a free download as a PDF file to all ACP members), or some combination of these. So, if you're a member of the ADA, look for your January issue with the College's GSK-sponsored supplement; if you're not a member of the ADA, look for it on the ACP website soon thereafter. My sincerest congratulations to my colleagues who worked so diligently in reviewing the literature, and in assisting in the writing, editing, and review of the Evidence Based Guidelines for the Care and Maintenance of Complete Dentures." These individuals include the following:

The UNC School of Dentistry faculty:	Drs. Lyndon Cooper, David Felton, Ibrahim Duqum, Albert Guckes, and Glenn Minsley
ACP Central Office:	Ms. Nancy Deal Chandler, ACP Executive Director
ADA Council on Scientific Affairs:	Dr. Steven Haug
Academy of General Dentistry:	Dr. Patty Meredith, Region X Trustee
American Dental Hygiene Association:	Ms. Caryn Solei, RDH (current ADHA president)
The National Association of Dental Laboratories:	Mr. David Avery, CDT
GlaxoSmithKline:	Dr. Zvi Loewy, Dr. Frank Gonser, Ms. Sonya Greco, and Ms. Grace Chu

I hope you'll appreciate the efforts of these individuals on this most important document, and enjoy the Guidelines. I believe our Task Force has produced and leveraged a very important document with the ADA, and with our corporate sponsor, GSK. I hope you'll agree, and will appreciate the tremendous amount of effort that went into development of this important document.

David A. Felton, DDS, MS, FACP
Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Prosthodontics*

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