



## How do we define a manuscript as suitable for a journal targeting general practitioners?



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Four years ago, in the April 2013 editorial, we tried to outline our philosophy regarding which articles should be published in a journal aimed at general practitioners. Since then, numerous wonderful articles have been submitted, but from time to time good manuscripts were rejected because we decided the article was not within the scope of Quintessence International. Authors whose manuscripts were rejected are often frustrated and find it difficult to understand why a well-researched and delineated manuscript would not be published in the journal. Rejecting a well-written manuscript is difficult for the editorial board as well; deciding whether or not a manuscript submitted to Quintessence International can serve the community of general practitioners is one of the biggest challenges faced by the editorial board.

First, we have to try to define who is considered a general practitioner or general dentist. The simple answer could be any practicing dentist who is not a specialist. However, many such practitioners have an interest in various specialty areas and perform procedures that in the past were provided only by specialists. The most noticeable example is, of course, dental implants. Not long ago, most general dentists referred patients, even for simple implant insertions, to periodontists or oral and maxillofacial surgeons. Nowadays, more general dentists are trained to and perform this procedure. I believe that this trend will continue to grow as we see more general residency programs or continuing education courses that offer advanced training in implantology and other more specialized procedures. As such, another of our tasks is to identify similar trends and to include relevant information in the list of topics we cover in a journal designed for general practitioners.

Looking back at articles published in recent years, we have accepted articles in all disciplines of dentistry: Restorative Dentistry, Endodontics, Periodontology, Prosthodontics, Esthetic Dentistry, Implantology, Pediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics, Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Orofacial Pain, Radiology/Imaging, General Dentistry, Practice Management, and Community Dentistry. These included research articles, systematic and topic reviews, case series, and case reports.

In addition, we need to cover new technologies and approaches, even those not routinely performed by general practitioners. These are probably best presented in an invited review or well-performed systematic review. We would likely not consider publishing a single case report presenting a controversial method even if the outcome was successful; we prefer to see controlled studies or case series.

We have accepted only a limited number of in-vitro and ex-vivo studies. Although the topics they cover may be applicable to the general practitioner, the clinical phase of the research will most likely be more relevant to QI's readers.

In conclusion, we try to serve the community of general practitioners by publishing clinically relevant and scientifically based manuscripts. The assessment of whether or not an article is of interest to general practitioners is part of our review process and a key question that we ask our reviewers to comment on and consider. We are aware that this is a difficult decision to make, and we make all the necessary/possible resources available in order to provide a fast and fair evaluation.

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