



Lecture Abstract

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Main implantological topics:

- Outcomes research
- Clinical epidemiology

The era of evidence based medicine and treatment guidelines: What study results (do not) mean for the care of the individual patient.

The identification of local and systemic factors associated with treatment outcomes (success or failure) is a major goal of clinical research in implantology. It is often proposed to use evaluation of such risk factors to gauge suitability of patients for specific procedures, i.e., to select patients for procedures based on a risk factor profile. However, to be useful as a predictor of a patient's outcome, a given factor must be more strongly associated with the outcome of interest than the level of association typically present. Hence, the presence or absence of a specific risk factor is of limited value for decision making in individual patients in most scenarios. This phenomenon will be demonstrated using examples from the medical and dental literature and the implications for implantological practice will be discussed.