



Ethical Protection in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

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It remains disheartening to read such statements published in journals of enormous scientific value, "Increasing media reports of ethical transgressions in research with human subjects have increasingly focused attention on clinical investigators and have served to undermine public confidence in medical research" [1]. In a report published in International Journal of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery in 2009 even ethical documentation in retrospective and observational studies was scant with 12% of randomised controlled trials and 38% of non-random trials did not report both of ethical protections. In this evaluator report on major journals in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery involving human subjects published in the International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and Journal of Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgery during January to June 2005 - 2007 was analyzed for "disclosure of ethical approval by a local ethical committee" and obtaining "informed consent from the subjects". A total of 534 articles were identified with ethical approval documented in just 22% and individual patient consent in 25% scientific articles. 67% did not include a statement on ethical approval or informed consent and only 14% disclosed statements of both [2]. When this remains the status of reporting and documentation in the journals of repute, the ground reality can be gauged to be shoddier in terms implementation of international research ethics guidelines in place currently. Research reports and documentation of the same as scientific publications is a mainstay of progress of any medical specialty. In the recent years the volume of research and publication of scientific data has increased many fold in both medical and dental sciences [3].

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