



## What are Some of CR's Best Products of All Time?

**Gordon's Clinical Observations:** Modern dentistry, which probably started around the time of the second world war, has seen the introduction of new concepts, materials, technologies, drugs, and devices. Which current products have survived beyond their introduction and continue to be important and useful? You are probably using some of them! As we consider the CR mantra, the most successful products are faster, easier, better, and less expensive. The CR team has identified numerous products for you to consider.

- CR continues to set the standard as the preferred resource for dentists seeking evidence-based product use suggestions. This trusted guidance results from unbiased evaluations conducted annually by CR's dedicated team of expert staff, scientists, and clinicians, a tradition spanning nearly five decades and encompassing hundreds of dental products each year.
- While CR's annual Buying Guide is renowned industry-wide for identifying each year's top dental products, **this article uniquely takes a broader perspective, highlighting many of the exceptional dental products identified by CR over nearly 50 years—those products considered among the greatest innovations in dental practice history.**
- **Against a lineup of history's greatest game changers—and in CR's pragmatic style—CR reveals 11 of dentistry's best products ready to use now!**

### Best Product Selection

Dental innovation continually evolves, but CR's guiding principle remains constant: use independent research to identify products that make dentistry faster, easier, better, and more cost-effective. Thousands of products have earned the prestigious "CR Choice" recognition by meeting these high standards.

While many innovations have advanced dental practice, certain exceptional products stand apart for their remarkable clinical value and having distinguished themselves from becoming a "commodity." This report highlights a selection of outstanding, practice-transforming products currently available—truly among some of CR's best products of all time. *To truly appreciate their significance, imagine practicing dentistry without the following* (alphabetized):

#### Astringent (Ultradent)

Synonymous with hemostasis because of its early introduction into dentistry by inventor-dentist Dr. Dan Fisher. While many great companies have followed after Astringent with similar versions, no other brand has had the market dominance as Astringent. This solution of ferric sulfate is used for control of blood and fluid seepage from soft tissue.

*When seating an all-ceramic crown, use ViscoStat Clear (aluminum chloride) to avoid possible margin staining.*



#### VALO (Ultradent Products)

VALO stands apart among dental curing lights because of its robust, indestructible construction and powerful output. This LED curing light has desirable features (12.7 mm and 90° tip; high intensity=2,400 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>; 3 watts output power). It redefined the standard for curing lights with performance, reliability, and longevity.



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

#### CR CONCLUSIONS:

- CR is renowned for its authoritative research and is trusted by dental professionals as the definitive source for product selection, having evaluated products and the best products since the 1970s.
- Each month since then, CR has conducted detailed evaluations, and its annual publication, the acclaimed Buying Guide, highlights the highest-performing dental products.
- Against a background of many historical best products, for the first time, CR presents an exclusive, carefully curated selection of some of the most outstanding AND CURRENTLY AVAILABLE products ever evaluated—CR's "Best Products of All Time."
- **If you have not yet experienced these exceptional solutions, CR strongly suggests you try them as described in this article. We're confident you'll appreciate their superior value.**

# 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**

## Clinicians Report® a Publication of CR Foundation®

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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®. ©2025 This report or portions thereof may not be duplicated without permission of CR Foundation®. Annual English language subscription: US\$299 worldwide, plus GST Canada subscriptions. Single issue: \$29 each. See CliniciansReport.org for additional subscription information.