



### CR BUYING GUIDE

# The BEST Products for 2018

CR is the original and only independent dental product testing organization with funding only from dentists!

**Gordon's Clinical Observations:** Every year Clinicians Report publishes an annual guide of many of the best products for the upcoming year based on evaluations from the previous twelve months. The products presented in this report have been through rigorous independent non-manufacturer sponsored evaluation and testing. CR conducts research at three levels: 1) product evaluations among 450 clinical evaluators worldwide in their own offices, 2) controlled long-term clinical research completed by TRAC Research, the human studies section of CR, and 3) Basic science laboratory testing. *Classic products that have withstood the test of time and predictability are also listed in most of the categories.*

**Please Read —** Please read the following product category descriptions carefully. Products listed in this Buying Guide have been evaluated by the CR science team and CR Clinical Evaluators. Each product in this report is color-coded to identify why it has been included in this listing.

- **Proven classic products and updated classics** are listed alphabetically and in red. These products have been determined by research and long-term clinical use. They are often used for new product comparisons. *Some categories do not have classics listed.*
- **Highly rated new products** were identified by in-house science evaluations and CR Evaluator use during 2017. Only products with an overall grade of 3.0 or higher (4.0 highest) and an Evaluator recommendation of 70% or greater were included.

Products that are not listed may not have been tested this year, may still be in testing, or were not among the highest rated. **For many other excellent products not mentioned, please review previous CR Buying Guides and Clinicians Reports at [www.CliniciansReport.org](http://www.CliniciansReport.org).**

— THIS IS NOT AN ALL INCLUSIVE LIST OF SUCCESSFUL DENTAL PRODUCTS —

## Braided Retraction Cord Provides Excellent Hemostasis and Gingival Retraction

Braided retraction cord from a well-known company manufactured with 100% cotton in a variety of sizes and types: Gingi-Pak impregnated with dl epinephrine HCl, Gingi-Aid impregnated with aluminum sulfate, or Gingi-Plain non-impregnated. Z-Twist Weave Braided Cord provides excellent, dependable handling characteristics. It packs easily, remains in place, is easily seen in the sulcus and resists penetration by the smallest packing instruments. Packaging has a patented self-cutting cap that precisely cuts the cord eliminating need for scissors.

### Advantages:

- Excellent hemostasis
- Easy to dispense and place
- Cap cuts cord
- Effective tissue retraction

### Limitation:

- Cord can unravel at cut

**Z-Twist Weave  
Braided Cord  
Gingi-Pak**



**\$0.12–0.13/Inch**

**CR CONCLUSIONS:** 79% of 24 CR Evaluators stated they would incorporate Z-Twist Weave Braided Cord into their practice. 79% rated it excellent or good and worthy of trial by colleagues.

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

# 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**



*This team is testing resin curing lights to determine their ability to cure a variety of resinbased 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.***

## Clinicians Report® a Publication of CR Foundation®

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**CRA Foundation® changed its name to CR Foundation® in 2008.**

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®. ©2017 This report or portions thereof may not be duplicated without permission of CR Foundation®. Annual English language subscription: US\$199 worldwide, plus GST Canada subscriptions. Single issue: \$18 each. See [www.CliniciansReport.org](http://www.CliniciansReport.org) for additional subscription information.