

## **A two-step stannous fluoride dentifrice and whitening gel sequence**

The dramatic growth and impact of tooth whitening worldwide has raised patients' awareness of the appearance of their smile. The introduction of whitening strips in 2000 played an appreciable role, expanding access to an increasingly broad population. Some years later, the whitening concept increased to include more dentifrices developed for esthetic reasons.

At the same time, gingival health is even more important over the long-term and the prevalence of gingivitis remains high. The currently recognized gold standard chemotherapeutic treatment, chlorhexidine, has several esthetic drawbacks that limit patient compliance, and consequently effectiveness. Recognizing the widespread need for an acceptable and efficacious gingival health therapy, in tandem with patients' growing desire for whiter teeth, researchers designed a novel two-step system to meet both objectives.

This special issue of the American Journal of Dentistry highlights important research findings on gingival health, tooth whitening and safety associated with use

of a unique two-step hygiene sequence: stannous fluoride dentifrice followed by hydrogen peroxide whitening gel. The research comes from diverse clinical settings.

This special issue of the American Journal of Dentistry represents one of the largest collections of clinical research on this two-stage protocol. The randomized controlled trials described herein support its significant gingival health and whitening outcomes. Such diverse testing, with respect to populations, sites and controls, provides important evidence of the merits of the two-step method. As you will see, this novel sequence shatters the long standing paradigm of therapeutic efficacy and esthetic negatives.

We hope you will find these papers interesting and educational. The Journal thanks Procter & Gamble, the manufacturer, for sponsoring this Special Issue.

Franklin García-Godoy, DDS, MS, PhD, PhD  
*Editor*