

University of Anbar
College of Dentistry



Year: First

Course: Terminology

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Terminology

Dental Terminology

Dentistry

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- **Dentistry:** is the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of the diseases that affect the oral cavity and its associated structures.
- **Dentist** (dent/-ist) is the person who practices dentistry. The dentist diagnoses, performs, and monitors the dental care of patients.
- By the nature of their general training, dentists can perform most dental treatments. They are generally assisted by:
 - dental hygienists
 - dental assistants
 - dental laboratory technicians

Main Branches of Dentistry

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- **Oral Medicine:** the branch of dentistry that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the oral cavity.
- **Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology:** is concerned with performance and interpretation of diagnostic imaging used for examining the craniofacial, dental and adjacent structures.
- **Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology:** is concerned with diagnosis and study of the causes and effects of diseases affecting the oral and maxillofacial region.
- **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery:** is a specialty concerned with the surgical treatment of diseases, injuries and defects in in the head, neck, face, jaws and the hard and/or soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial region.
- **Restorative and Aesthetic Dentistry:** deals with restoring decayed teeth in order to preserve their function, shape and aesthetic.

Main Branches of Dentistry

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- **Periodontology (Periodontics):** the branch of dentistry that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases affecting the tissues surrounding and supporting the teeth.
- **Pediatric Dentistry (Pedodontics):** the branch of dentistry that deals with the treatment of children's teeth.
- **Preventive Dentistry:** deals with preservation of healthy teeth and gums and the prevention of dental caries and oral disease.
- **Orthodontics:** the branch that deals with treatment of teeth mal-alignment and mal-occlusion in order to restore normal function and aesthetics of teeth.
- **Prosthodontics:** deals with prosthetic replacement of the missing teeth and dental tissues by fixed or removable prosthesis.
- **Endodontics:** the branch of dentistry that deals with the diseases and treatments of the dental pulp.

Word Parts Pertaining to Dentistry

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Combining Form	Meaning	Example	Definition of Example
or/o	mouth	<i>oral</i>	Pertaining to the mouth
stomat/o		<i>stomatitis</i>	Inflammation of the mouth
gloss/o	tongue	<i>glossectomy</i>	-ectomy = excision, surgical removal
lingu/o		<i>lingual</i>	Pertaining to the tongue
bucc/o	cheek	<i>buccal</i>	Pertaining to the cheek
labi/o	lip	<i>labial</i>	Pertaining to the lips
dent/o, denti odont/o	teeth	<i>dentist</i>	-ist = specialist
		<i>dentilabial</i>	relating to both teeth and lips
		<i>orthodontist</i>	Orth-= straight; dentist who straightens teeth and corrects malocclusions
		<i>odontorrhagia</i>	Profuse bleeding after an extraction
gingiv/o	gum	<i>gingivectomy</i>	surgical excision of unattached gingival tissue
		<i>gingivitis</i>	inflammation of the gums
sial/o	saliva	<i>sialolith</i>	-lith=stone, calculus.

Abbreviations Related to Dentistry

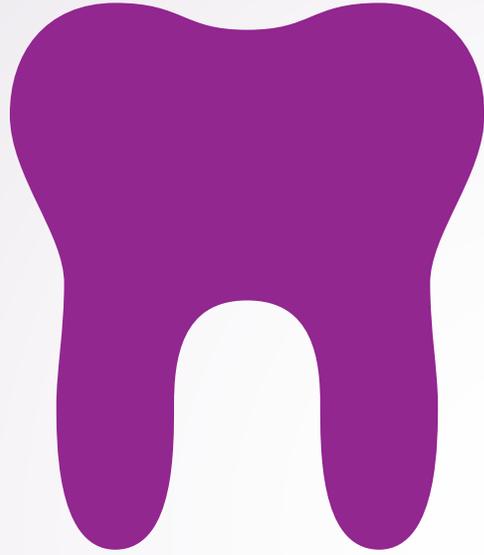
Abbreviation	Meaning	Abbreviation	Meaning
DMD	Doctor of Medical Dentistry	BDS	Bachelor of Dental Surgery
DDS	Doctor of Dental Surgery	CDA	Certified Dental Assistant
RDH	Registered Dental Hygienist	TMJ	Temporomandibular Joint
dmf	decayed, missing, or filled (primary teeth)	DMF	decayed, missing, or filled (permanent teeth)
def	decayed, extracted, or filled (primary teeth)	DEF	decayed, extracted, or filled (permanent teeth)

Common Conditions that Affect the Oral Cavity

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- ▶ **Dental Caries** = tooth decay = cavities in the teeth caused by bacteria.
- ▶ **Bruxism** = involuntary grinding of the teeth that usually occurs during sleep.
- ▶ **Trismus**: Restricted ability to open the mouth.
- ▶ **Stomatitis** = inflammation of the mouth.
- ▶ **Gingivitis** = inflammation of the gingiva (gum).
- ▶ **Odontalgia** = toothache = pain in the tooth.
- ▶ **Oligodontia** = Reduced number of teeth.
- ▶ **Anodontia** = Congenital absence of teeth.
- ▶ **Crossbite** = reverse biting relationship of upper and lower teeth also called class III malocclusion.
- ▶ **Malocclusions**: Abnormal closures of the top teeth in relation to the bottom teeth.
- ▶ **Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Dysfunction** = Pain in the jawline due to dislocation of the joint.

Note: A very important joint in the skull called temporomandibular joint (TMJ): it is the joint connecting the lower jaw (mandible) to the skull.



Common Clinical Dental Terms

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

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- **Impaction:** an unerupted or partially erupted tooth.
- **Tooth Extraction:** a dental procedure during which your tooth is completely removed from its socket.
- **Avulsion:** separation of tooth from its socket due to trauma.
- **Incision:** is a cut through the skin or mucosa that is made during surgery.
- **Abscess:** Acute or chronic localized inflammation, probably with a collection of pus.
- **Acute Abscess:** An inflammatory reaction and necrosis characterized by rapid onset.
- **Chronic Abscess:** An inflammatory reaction and necrosis characterized by gradual onset.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

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- **Implant:** A titanium screw that is placed in the jawbone to replace a missing tooth.
- **Suture:** is a thread used to hold tissues together after injury or surgery.
- **Analgesia:** pain relief without loss of consciousness and without total loss of feeling or movement.
- **Anesthesia:** anesthesia is defined as the loss of physical sensation with or without loss of consciousness.
- **Local Anesthesia:** the elimination of sensation, especially pain, in one part of the body by the topical application or regional injection of a drug.
- **Inhalation:** a technique of administration in which a gaseous or volatile agent is introduced into the lungs.

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

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- **Intravenous:** a technique of administration in which a medicine is introduced directly into the patient's venous system.
- **Sedation:** the reduction of irritability or agitation by administration of sedative drugs, generally to facilitate a medical procedure or diagnostic.
- **Enteral:** any technique of administration in which the agent is absorbed through the gastrointestinal (GI) tract or oral mucosa (i.e., oral, rectal, sublingual).
- **Parenteral:** a technique of administration in which the drug bypasses the gastrointestinal (GI) tract (i.e., intramuscular [IM], intravenous [IV], intranasal [IN], submucosal [SM], subcutaneous [SC], intraosseous [IO]).

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

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- **Transdermal:** a technique of administration in which the drug is administered by patch or iontophoresis through skin.
- **Transmucosal:** a technique of administration in which the drug is administered across mucosa such as intranasal, sublingual, or rectal.
- **Inflammation:** is the complex biological response of body tissues to harmful stimuli, such as pathogens or foreign bodies.
- **Infection:** an invasion of the body by harmful microorganisms or parasites.
- **Anomaly:** deviation from the normal anatomic structure, growth, development, or function; an abnormality.
- **Biopsy:** Process of removing tissue for histologic evaluation.

Prosthodontics

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- **Dental Prosthesis:** an intraoral (inside the mouth) appliance used to restore (reconstruct) intraoral defects such as missing teeth, missing parts of teeth, and missing soft or hard structures.
- **Dental Arch:** The curved structure of the natural dentition and the residual ridge such as maxillary arch and mandibular arch.
- **Denture:** a removable replacement for missing teeth and surrounding tissues.
- **Partial Denture:** A removable appliance (prosthesis) that replaces some of the teeth in either the upper or lower jaw.
- **Fixed Partial Denture:** A non-removable (cemented) prosthetic replacement of one or more missing teeth.
- **Impression:** is a negative imprint of hard and soft tissues in the mouth from which a positive reproduction such as a cast model.
- **Impression Tray:** is a tool used to hold and carry the impression material to the oral cavity.
- **Articulator:** a mechanical instrument that represents the temporomandibular joints (TMJs) and jaws
- **Clasp:** is a circumferential retainer for a removable dental prosthesis.

Operative Dentistry

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- **Restoration:** is the act of restoring something to its original state.
- **Filling:** a term used for the restoring of lost tooth structure by using materials such as metal, alloy, plastic, or porcelain.
- **Cavity Preparation:** the procedure used to remove demineralized enamel and infected dentin.
- **Amalgam Filling:** is a metal material used to fill cavities caused by tooth decay.
- **Composite Filling:** is a plastic material used to fill cavities caused by tooth decay.
- **Inlay:** A laboratory processed tooth filling restoration made of metal, composite, or porcelain.
- **Onlay:** A laboratory processed tooth covering restoration made of metal, composite, or porcelain.
- **Lining:** a thin material placed underneath the amalgam restoration for thermal isolation.
- **Bonding:** Process by which two or more components are made connected by mechanical and/or chemical adhesion.

Crown and Bridge

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- **Crown:** a restoration covering or replacing the major part, or the whole of the clinical crown of a tooth.
- **A dental bridge:** is used to replace one or more missing teeth.
- **Veneer:** A thin covering of the facial surface of a tooth.
- **Pontic:** The term used for an artificial tooth on a fixed partial denture (bridge).
- **Porcelain/Ceramic:** Refers to materials containing predominantly inorganic refractory compounds including porcelains, glasses, ceramics, and glass-ceramics.

Endodontics

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- **Apex:** The tip or end of the root end of the tooth.
- **Apicectomy:** Amputation of the apex of a tooth.
- **Root Canal:** Space inside the root portion of a tooth containing pulp tissue.
- **Pulp:** Connective tissue that contains blood vessels and nerve tissue which occupies the pulp cavity of a tooth.
- **Pulpitis:** Inflammation of the dental pulp.
- **Radiograph:** An image or picture produced on a radiation sensitive film by exposure to ionizing radiation.
- **Obturation:** refers to the sealing of the canal(s) of tooth roots during root canal therapy.

Orthodontics

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- **Oral Diagnosis:** The determination by a dentist of the oral health condition of an individual patient.
- **Mixed Dentition:** a term used where both primary and permanent teeth are in the oral cavity together.
- **Panorama:** Commonly known as an OPG. An x-ray taken outside of the mouth that shows all the teeth on one film.
- **Space Maintainer:** A passive appliance, usually cemented in place, that holds teeth in position.
- **Orthodontic Retainer:** Appliance to stabilize teeth following orthodontic treatment.
- **Mouthguard:** Individually molded device designed primarily to be worn for the purpose of helping prevent injury to the teeth and their surrounding tissues.
- **Palate:** The hard and soft tissues forming the roof of the mouth.
- **Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ):** The connecting hinge mechanism between the base of the skull (temporal bone) and the lower jaw (mandible).

Periodontics

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- **Periodontal Pocket:** The gap that forms when the gums detach from the side of the tooth.
- **Periodontitis:** Inflammation and loss of the connective tissue of the supporting or surrounding structure of teeth.
- **Plaque:** A sticky and thin bacterial film on the teeth.
- **Calculus:** Hard deposit of mineralized substance adhering to crowns and/or roots of teeth.
- **Scaling:** Removal calculus from teeth.
- **Periodontal Disease:** Inflammatory process of the gingival tissues and/or periodontal membrane of the teeth.
- **Sialorrhea:** an increased amount of the retaining saliva.
- **Xerostomia:** Decreased salivary secretion.