

September 2021

Oral Medicine/Oral Pathology consultation guide for DMD students

When you request a consultation from a faculty or resident from the Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences Department (OMDS), there are a few rules you must follow that will be used during the consultation.

1. Ask yourself why you need a consultation? Is it because of an oral mucosal change, or a radiographic finding, a lump, a growth? If your question is about a lesion or finding involving the oral soft tissues, please call oral medicine/oral/pathology. If it is a radiographic finding, please call radiology. This distinction is important because different faculty/resident do consultations based on their specialty.

Once during your patient examination you find something out of the ordinary, before you ask a faculty for help, think about what, in your opinion, that finding could be. If either you or your faculty supervisor cannot decide what it is that you are looking for, then it is time to request a consultation.

2. The best number to call:

Oral Medicine/Oral Pathology: 3-6703

Oral Radiology: 3-6775

3. You must prepare a short presentation to the faculty or the resident. Please inform the patient of the finding and let them know that one of us will come to the clinic for a consult. This presentation should include the following:

Chief complaint (CC): this is the reason why the consultation is needed. Many times the patient will not be aware of the problem, so there is no chief complaint. However, if it is a change you found, then this becomes the reason for the consultation. You should describe it to the faculty/resident.

History of the present illness (HPI): here you will describe the information about your finding or the complaint by the patient. For instance, you should know how long this is present, is it getting worse, growing, or is it stable? Was the patient aware of the problem or not. Has the patient been treated for the problem? This information you get from the patient when they have a CC. Otherwise, there may be no history yet.

Medical history (MH): here you will have to describe the main findings about the medical history of your patient, current problems, medications the patient is taking, and the today's vital signs, BP, P and if present, Temperature.

Family history (FH): a brief description of the medical problems in the patient's family,

hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, etc.

Dental history (DH): frequency of dental visits, oral hygiene habits and dental products used by the patient.

Social history (SH): any habits such as smoking, drinking and use of recreational drugs. Please be ready to tell how much smoking or drinking, how long, etc.

Exam: now you are ready to tell the faculty/resident what is that you found that seems to be abnormal. Please describe in detail the lesion or the image in a way one can imagine what you are seeing. Please give the size, location, whether it is an isolated problem or if it is present in several areas of the mouth, color, is it ulcerated, etc.

Clinical Impression (CI): here you are going to use all the information collected previously and come up with what you think the problem is, that is, **a differential diagnosis**. List all the problems you think it could be, citing first the most likely one. Use the knowledge obtained from the training in oral pathology and oral medicine. There is no problem if you are guessing wrong. Just practice!!

With this presentation the faculty/resident will take over, examine the patient, discuss the findings with you and the patient and determine a treatment plan.

Please stay with the faculty/resident throughout the consultation. You do not want to miss anything that is being discussed. You will have to write the progress notes about the consultation. If you leave the cubicle for any reason, the faculty/resident will apologize to the patient and leave. This is an opportunity for you to learn how an oral medicine/oral pathologist specialist addresses oral problems with their patients. You have reduced opportunity to learn this during your training at our College.

We in OMDS are willing to help you and your patients anytime. However, you also must be interested in finding out what the problem is with your patient and how that will be treated. Thank you so much. If you have any question, please contact me at 325-294-5576

Dr. Migliorati