

Appendix: Exploring competencies in dental students when performing extra-oral examinations

Please answer the following questions below by inserting a tick (✓) in the box next to your answer.

1. Which year of Bachelor of Dental Surgery course are you currently in?

- BDS 3
- BDS 4
- BDS 5

2. Gender

- Male
- Female
- Other

3. Ethnicity

- New Zealand European
- Maori
- Pacific Islander
- Asian
- Others (please specify _____)

4. Age _____ years old

5. Do you have any previous qualifications?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please select from the list below:

- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
- Bachelor of Oral Health
- Bachelor of Dental Technology
- Bachelor of Pharmacy
- Bachelor of Science
- Others (please specify _____)

Section A: Clinical examination aspects

General Observations

6. How often do you conduct a general observation of the patient?

- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Never

Only if the patient mentions something of concern

7. If you don't conduct a general observation all the time, what is your reasoning?

- Takes too much time
- Lack understanding of how to do it
- Deem it unnecessary
- Other (please explain _____)

8. How confident do you feel conducting a general observation of the patient?

- Very confident
- Confident
- Neutral
- Unconfident
- Very unconfident

9. When conducting a general observation of the patient, which of these do you assess and record? (Tick all that apply)

- Body weight
- Physical disability
- Obvious illnesses
- Apparent age, relative to chronological age
- Complexion (e.g. pallor with anaemia, yellow with jaundice)
- Exposed skin areas on the head & neck, as well as hands
- Facial symmetry
- Facial profile
- Eyes (including blinking rate, limited ocular movement, ulcerations, discoloration of sclera, corneal scarring, conjunctivitis)
- Lip competencies (including muscle tone, colour, texture, ulcerations, lesions, angular cheilitis, etc.)
- Visible enlargements & defects
- Moles & blemishes

TMJ Assessment

10. How often do you conduct a TMJ assessment of the patient?

- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Never
- Only if the patient mentions something of concern

11. If you don't conduct a TMJ assessment all the time, what is your reasoning?

- Takes too much time
- Lack understanding of how to do it
- Deem it unnecessary
- Other (please explain _____)

12. How confident do you feel conducting a TMJ assessment of the patient?

- Very confident
- Confident
- Neutral
- Unconfident
- Very unconfident

13. When conducting a TMJ assessment of the patient, which of these do you assess and record? (Tick all that apply)

- Range of movement (e.g. maximum pain-free jaw opening, lateral deviations, trismus)

- Tenderness (using bilateral palpation)
- Sounds
- Locking
- Bruxism
- Head/neck pain

Muscles of Mastication Assessment

14. How often do you palpate ALL the muscles of mastication (masseter, temporalis, lateral pterygoid, medial pterygoid muscles) of the patient?

- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Never
- Only if the patient mentions something of concern

15. If you don't palpate the muscles of mastication all the time, what is your reasoning?

- Takes too much time
- Lack understanding of how to do it
- Deem it unnecessary

Other (please explain _____)

16. How confident do you feel on the anatomical landmarks of the muscles of mastication?

- Very confident
- Confident
- Neutral
- Unconfident
- Very unconfident

17. How confident do you feel palpating the muscles of mastication of the patient?

- Very confident
- Confident
- Neutral
- Unconfident
- Very unconfident

18. When conducting a muscles of mastication assessment of the patient, which of these do you assess and record? (Tick all that apply)

- Range of movement
- Tenderness
- Referred pain
- Muscle contraction

Lymph Node Assessment

19. How often do you palpate ALL the lymph nodes of the patient (i.e. cervical, supraclavicular, submandibular, submental, preauricular, postauricular, and occipital nodes)?

- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Never

Only if the patient mentions something of concern

20. If you don't palpate all the lymph nodes all the time, what is your reasoning?

- Takes too much time
- Lack understanding of how to do it
- Deem it unnecessary
- Other (please explain _____)

21. How confident do you feel palpating the lymph nodes of the patient?

- Very confident
- Confident
- Neutral
- Unconfident
- Very unconfident

22. If the patient has an abnormality, which of these do you assess and record? (Tick all that apply)

- Site
- Size
- Texture
- Tenderness to palpation
- Fixation to surrounding tissues
- Coalescence
- Mobility
- Number of nodes felt

Salivary Gland Assessment

23. How often do you do a bimanual examination of ALL the salivary glands of the patient (i.e. parotid, submandibular, submental, sublingual glands)?

- All of the time
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Never

Only if the patient mentions something of concern

24. If you don't conduct a bimanual examination of the salivary glands all the time, what is your reasoning?

- Takes too much time
- Lack understanding of how to do it
- Deem it unnecessary
- Other (please explain _____)

25. How confident do you feel conducting a bimanual examination of the salivary glands of the patient?

- Very confident
- Confident
- Neutral
- Unconfident
- Very unconfident

26. If the patient has an abnormality, which of

these do you assess and record? (Tick all that apply)

- Site
- Size
- Texture
- Mobility
- Fixation to surrounding tissues
- Tenderness to palpation

Section B: Clinical examination confidence

27. How comfortable do you feel performing a full extra-oral head and neck examination?

- Very comfortable
- Comfortable
- Neutral
- Uncomfortable
- Very uncomfortable

28. Do you ever find yourself skipping over certain aspects of an extra-oral examination (e.g. skipping certain nodes, skipping over asymmetries, skipping general observations)?

- Yes
- No

29. If yes, what is your reasoning?

- Takes too much time
- Lack understanding of how to do it
- Deem it unnecessary
- Other (please explain _____)

Section C: Teaching curriculum & student attitudes:

30. Overall, how satisfied are you with your knowledge of extra-oral examinations?

- Very satisfied

- Satisfied
- Neutral
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

31. What aspects of extra-oral teaching are you most satisfied/happy with?

32. What aspects of extra-oral teaching do you think could be improved?

33. Do you have any other comments regarding extra-oral examinations?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.