



COMMITTEE ON RESIDENCY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

COMPETENCIES OF THE ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON AT THE COMPLETION OF TRAINING

At the completion of a 48 month accredited oral and maxillofacial surgery training program, the oral and maxillofacial surgeon is imminently qualified to perform a variety of services for his/her patients. The skills, which he/she possesses, have been gained through a broad clinical experience as well as rotations on surgical and medical services.

A minimum of thirty months is spent on the oral and maxillofacial surgery service providing a broad scope of specific surgical experience for the resident. At least eighteen months are spent on off-service rotations on a variety of medical/surgical services which are applicable to the oral and maxillofacial surgeon. There are several required rotations, including a minimum of four months of inpatient hospital anesthesia, two months on the clinical medicine service, and four months on the general surgery service. In addition, at least eight months is spent on a variety of other services, including rotations in plastic surgery, otolaryngology, neurosurgery, infectious disease, and pediatric surgery. During this time, residents learn management of both adult and pediatric patients.

At the end of the training period, the oral and maxillofacial surgeon is competent to perform a detailed history and physical examination. A formal physical diagnosis course is provided in the first year of training and the resident performs a large number of complete history and physical examination during the subsequent four years. The resident is credentialed during this year by a staff member who is qualified to perform history and physical examinations.

During an anesthesia rotation of at least four months in duration, the surgeon learns the techniques of intubation for general anesthesia in a hospital setting. In addition, during the minimum of 30 months of rotation on the oral and maxillofacial service, many surgical procedures are performed on patients who have been sedated at either a light or deep level, as well as patients who have been administered a general anesthetic. These sedations and anesthetics are provided by the oral and maxillofacial surgery residents. Therefore, the anesthesia training is a broad experience which is quite intense, and is distributed over a full four year period, providing the resident with an excellent background in anesthesia. In addition to the general anesthesia training, the residents all become certified in advanced cardiac life support, and are trained in advanced trauma life support.

The basis science portion of the training program is provided at weekly seminars and conferences in which topics such as anatomy, including growth and development, physiology, pharmacology, microbiology and immunology, and pathology are provided. These are usually small group seminars which lead to in-depth discussions of these topics.

The resident's outpatient experience is very broad, as a substantial amount of surgical activity is provided in this setting. Each oral and maxillofacial surgery resident sees over 3,000 patients per year on an ambulatory basis.

The oral and maxillofacial surgeon admits and manages a large number of patients in the hospital for major medical procedures. These patients fall into a variety of categories, including trauma, reconstruction, orthognathic surgery, pathology, and esthetic surgery.

In the area of trauma, the resident becomes competent to manage mandibular and midface fractures, including fractures at the level of the base of the skull, zygomatico-maxillary complex, frontal sinus, supraorbital rim fractures, naso-orbital-ethmoid fractures, and in some situations, fractures of the hyoid bone.

In the area of pathology, the residents become competent to manage all benign pathology of the soft and hard tissues of the oral and maxillofacial region. This also includes management of temporomandibular joint pathology, maxillary sinus pathology, pathology of the major and minor salivary glands, minor and major infections of the head and neck, and management of injuries and maladies of the fifth cranial nerve. In some training programs, residents gain experience and competency in the management of malignant neoplasms of the maxillofacial region.

The resident surgeon also becomes competent in orthognathic surgery. This involves the correction of deformities of the mandible as well as the middle third of the facial skeleton. The resident becomes competent in comprehensive case management, including the surgical correction of the functional and esthetic orofacial and craniofacial deformities of the face.

The resident surgeon becomes competent in the reconstruction of the maxillofacial region. In order to perform the reconstruction procedures, bone graft harvesting from the cranium, rib, ilium, tibia, and elsewhere is included in the training program. Additionally, the harvesting of soft tissue such as fat, split thickness skin, and full thickness skin and mucosa from a variety of locations throughout the body is also included. The specific reconstructive procedures which are treated include vestibuloplasty, various ridge augmentation procedures, certain types of esthetic surgery including rhinoplasty, blepharoplasty, and face lift surgery, temporomandibular joint reconstruction, and the management of continuity defects following ablative surgery or infections. Placement of implants both intraorally and extraorally and providing sufficient bone and soft tissues to support them is mastered. Management of facial clefts is also included.

Finally, the oral and maxillofacial surgery resident spends a substantial amount of time in the emergency room gaining experience in the management of the acutely injured patient.

In summary, completion of an accredited oral and maxillofacial surgery program, the surgeon is competent to perform the wide variety of diagnostic and surgical procedures for the comprehensive management of the diseases, injuries and defects involving both the functional and esthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial regions.

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