



Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Saving faces every day in the office and the ER

Oral & maxillofacial surgeons provide complex care for the craniofacial complex.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) are surgically and medically trained **dental specialists** who treat conditions, defects, injuries, and esthetic aspects of the mouth, teeth, jaws, neck and face. OMSs perform millions of surgical procedures each year in their offices, hospitals, surgi-centers, and emergency departments.

- ◆ **Facial Trauma** - When a patient with fractures and/or lacerations of the mouth, face and jaws arrives at a hospital's emergency department, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon is likely to be the physician called to provide emergency care. The American College of Surgeons state that **OMSs are essential surgical professionals on Level I and II trauma centers facial trauma call to treat complex hard and soft tissue injuries of and to reconstruct the mouth, face and jaws**. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons routinely treat emergency patients with severe injuries due to auto accidents, gunshot wounds and other trauma. OMSs also care for patients with broken jaws, noses and other facial injuries resulting from falls, sporting accidents, and other injuries. During surgical residency programs, OMSs complete Advanced Trauma Life Support certification. Currently, oral and maxillofacial surgeons are on active duty in Afghanistan and the Iraq War treating service personnel who are afflicted by craniofacial trauma.
- ◆ **Cancer Surgery** - Oral and maxillofacial surgeons frequently are called upon to diagnose and treat cancer and other diseases of the mouth, face and jaws. When **oncologists or other medical specialists refer a patient to an OMS** for surgery to remove cancerous or other destructive lesions/tumors, they do so knowing that the oral and maxillofacial surgeon has the education, training and surgical skill to excise the cancer and, if necessary, reconstruct the face and jaw area.
- ◆ **Anesthesia Administration** - Oral and maxillofacial surgeons receive excellent **training in anesthesia and pain control that meets or exceeds the training of any other specialists** except anesthesiologists. OMSs have administered anesthesia in the outpatient setting for nearly a century. Since 1981, most states evaluate offices based on the OMS office anesthesia evaluation program using standards developed by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) to ensure anesthesia services are provided in a well-equipped facility with trained personnel. The result of this public/private sector cooperation is an **office anesthesia safety record exceeding that of hospitals. OMS residents are certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS). ACLS is required by most state dental licensing boards for those who administer IV conscious sedation, deep sedation and general anesthesia**. In addition, the *AAOMS Parameters of Care* state that ACLS is essential for those who administer intravenous conscious sedation, deep sedation and general anesthesia.
- ◆ **Bite and Facial Correction** - Oral and maxillofacial surgeons surgically adjust jaw bones to help patients with severe over- or under-bites, Temporomandibular Joint Disorders (TMJ), dentofacial and craniofacial deformities and diseases. Restoration of the jaw and facial structures leads to normal function and appearance and **patients are able to: breathe and chew more comfortably; speak more clearly; and have improved self-esteem and psychological development**. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons are key members of **craniofacial surgical care teams for patients with cleft lip and palate**.
- ◆ **Dental and Craniofacial Implant Placement** - Oral and maxillofacial surgeons successfully place more than half a million dental implants each year, giving patients **a longer lasting, more comfortable and stronger alternative to dentures and dental crowns**. For the edentulous patient, implants serve as strong anchors for

traditional dentures and bridges. OMSs also place implants to anchor prosthetic ears, noses and eyebrows, and to repair damaged or malformed facial bones.

- ◆ **Surgical Removal of Wisdom Teeth** - Preliminary long-term study results show the oral and maxillofacial surgeons' removal of wisdom teeth annually **saves thousands of patients from infection, pain and related complications.**

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons are highly qualified.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeon training consists of a four-year graduate degree in dentistry followed by the completion of a four-year (minimum) hospital-based surgical residency program plus additional fellowship training for many OMSs. During their surgical training, OMS residents are required to rotate to general surgery, medicine, anesthesia and to several other surgical services of choice, including plastic surgery and pediatric surgery. In addition, OMS residents complete a structured physical diagnosis course. Qualified teaching staff must provide documentation as to the resident's competence in physical diagnosis, including assessment of the patient's medical, surgical and anesthetic risks. Like medical residents, **oral and maxillofacial surgeons complete accredited residency programs at prestigious teaching hospitals and institutions across the nation. There are 101 accredited OMS residency programs, including eleven federal service programs plus ninety programs located in thirty-two states as well as in Puerto Rico and Washington, DC.**

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