Survey On Problems In Removable Partial Denture Constructions In Faculty Of Dentistry, University Of Malaya

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Objective: The aim of this study is to identify problems faced by students at various laboratory and clinical stages in producing removable partial denture (RPD) at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Malaya. Students were required to do the entire laboratory work themselves (except for construction of cobalt-chromium framework). Method: Cross sectional survey was randomly done to year four and year five students (n= 100) between August to December 2006. The students may answer more than one questionnaire for different type of cases. For problems at each laboratory/clinical stages, students may answer more than one problem. Result: 107 questionnaires were returned and analyzed. 79% had various problems in surveying and at tooth try-in stage respectively. 68% did not know or unsure of the placement of various components of partial denture. 78.5% had problems at issue stage. Discussion: Students faced problems at almost every laboratory and clinical stages. These students may not understand the importance of the laboratory stages and may not relate their importance to clinical stages and vice versa. Also, laboratory instruments may contribute towards some of the problems. Conclusion: There is a need for students to complete their laboratory work themselves so that they know laboratory errors could contribute towards problems in the clinic and vice versa.

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Teaching Of Geriatric Dentistry In The Undergraduate Curriculum

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Geriatric dentistry is one of the modules taught during the fifth year academic session in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The module includes a series of lectures and field trips activity, which are visits to old folks’ or nursing homes in Kuala Lumpur. Students also get their training in clinical management of elderly during their sessions in polyclinics. The aim of the lectures is to introduce students to basic concepts of the oral health needs and care of elderly patient, and preparing them for patient management. The field trips provide opportunities for students to meet and interact with the elderly in their own environment, provide health education in a community setting and develop a caring attitude towards underprivileged communities. Evaluation of the geriatric module for the past academic session was conducted. The aim was to gain insights from the students on the teaching of geriatric in the faculty. Students reported that they have learned most of the skills listed after completing the module. However they felt that their skills in overcoming barriers during communication with elderly and developing more confidence in management were not improved. Lack of educational resource material and very minimum clinical sites experience were the main barriers faced during the programme.

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