A Guide to Endodontic Consultation
Recommendations for Effective Endodontic Consultation in the Undergraduate Clinics

When is an endodontic consultation needed?
During examination, diagnosis and treatment planning, clinical findings that are considered to be beyond the scope of a novice general practitioner (GP) in private practice, where the GP would refer the patient to an endodontist for consultation and/or treatment.

The endodontist can be asked to consult on the endodontic prognosis and/or recommended treatment when one or more of the following situations is present:
- patient experiencing pain/discomfort not easily ruled out
- extensive fracture of the crown
- persisting apical radiolucencies and/or pain after NSRCT
- dento-alveolar trauma
- endo-perio lesion suspected
- Class 3 difficulty cases

What the student and clinic instructor need to do BEFORE requesting the consult:
- Collect all of the data that is required based on the endodontic blue form and case difficulty assessment form.
- Have at least one recent PA of the tooth to be assessed.
- Complete both sides of the endodontic blue sheet, which includes the case difficulty assessment form.
- Document the patient’s general and endodontic status, the endodontic history and status of the specific site of interest, restorability of the tooth and how it might impact on the proposed restorative treatment plan.
- Document the purpose of the consultation, and specific questions to be asked of the endodontist.
- Propose possible answers to your questions to the endodontist before the specialist answers them.
  Obtain instructor’s approval for all of the above PRIOR TO requesting the endodontic consultation.

What the endodontist will do during an endodontic consult:
- Ask the student to state the purpose of the consultation and the specific questions being asked.
- Listen to the student’s summary of the endodontic history, status and site-specific treatment plan.
- Ask the student for the completed endodontic blue sheet and case difficulty assessment form.
- Re-examine the patient and request other radiographs if necessary.
- Ask the student to propose possible answers to his/her questions before providing answers to them.
- Discuss with the student/instructor the patient’s short/long term prognosis and recommended endodontic and restorative treatment options, as well as the underlying rationale.
- Determine if any other consultations are required.
- Decide whether treatment can be done by an undergraduate student or if the case must be referred out to private practice. Any Class 3 rated case, based on the case difficulty assessment form, is to be referred to private practice.
- Help the student arrange for referral to private practice.