A Guide for Oral Medicine and Pathology Consultations
Recommendations for Effective Oral Medicine and Pathology Consultation in the Undergraduate Clinics

When is an Oral Medicine and Pathology consultation needed?
- At any stage during examination, diagnosis, treatment planning, treatment and post-treatment follow up, when clinical findings that are considered to be beyond the scope of a general practitioner (GP) in private practice, where the GP would refer the patient to an Oral Medicine and Pathology specialist for consultation and/or management.
  - The Oral Medicine and Pathology specialist (OMP specialist) can be asked for a consultation when one or more of the following situations is present:
    * Unusual mucosal changes that are not variations of normal (e.g., colored macules, papules, chronic ulcers, surface or subsurface lumps, blisters, chemosensory or salivary gland dysfunction, etc)
    * Unusual radiographic changes (e.g., bone loss unrelated to routine pulpal or periodontal problems, bone abnormalities in the non-tooth bearing areas of the maxillofacial skeleton, etc)
    * Clarification of a medical history that may impact dental treatment (e.g., need for prophylactic antibiotics, allergy testing, potential drug interactions with dental pharmacotherapeutics, dental phobias, concurrent medical treatment or pending investigations, syndromes, etc)
    * Non-response to primary dental therapy after a reasonable period of time (e.g., 3 weeks)
    * Disorders of musculoskeletal head and neck structures (e.g., bruxism, myofascial pain, TMJ internal derangements, some types of sleep-disordered breathing, etc)

What the referring student and clinic instructor need to do BEFORE requesting the consult:
- Document the purpose of the consultation, and specific questions to be asked of the OMP specialist.
- Document the patient’s general medical, dental and radiographic history and how it might impact on the proposed dental treatment plan.
- Document any mucosal lesions photographically and make it part of the electronic patient record.
- Obtain instructor approval for all of the above PRIOR TO requesting the consultation using a clinic form (e.g., regular intramural referral form, histopathology requisition form, extramural medical consultation form)

What the Oral Medicine and Pathology specialist will do during a consultation:
- Ask the student to (a) confirm the reason for the patient’s appointment and present a summary of their oral medicine and pathology management plan, and, (b) interact with the instructor for clarification or for patient variations that may impact patient management decision-making.
- Confirm and help the student arrange any additional diagnostic tests or consultation as required.
- Initial and place in the chart, consultation documents from physicians if the results are compatible with current standards or a patient-specific situation. Written consultation documents by an OMP specialist will also be put into the chart.

It is the responsibility of the referring student and clinic instructor to understand the completed consultation and obtain appropriate informed consent.