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

When is a periodontal consultation needed?
- During examination, diagnosis and treatment planning, 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 a periodontist for consultation and/or treatment.
  - The periodontist can be asked to consult on the periodontal prognosis and/or recommended treatment of one or more teeth when one or more of the following situations is present:
    • severe chronic periodontitis deep clinical probing depth (>6 mm)
    • progressive/aggressive attachment loss
    • lack of/minimal keratinized gingival tissue
    • lack of available biologic width
    • Class II/III furcation involvement
    • unfavorable crown/root ratio
    • implant consult

What the 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 periodontist.
- Document the patient’s general and periodontal status (PSR), the periodontal history and status of the specific site of interest, and how it might impact on the proposed restorative treatment plan.
- Propose possible answers to your questions to the periodontist before the specialist answers them.
  Obtain instructor approval for all of the above PRIOR TO requesting the consultation.

What the Periodontist will do during a Periodontal 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 periodontal history, status and site-specific restorative treatment plan.
- Ask the student to propose possible answers to his/her questions before providing answers to them.
- Discuss with the student/instructor the patient’s (site’s) short/long term prognosis and recommended periodontal and restorative treatment, as well as the underlying reasons/rationale.
- Confirm whether undergraduate surgery or referral to Graduate Periodontics Clinic is required.
  • See “Guidelines for Referring Undergraduate Patients to Graduate Periodontics Clinic”.
  • Help the student arrange for undergraduate surgery or Graduate Periodontics Clinic referral.