HOSA Dental Terminology Practice (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Questions

1. What is a fibroma?

- **A. A malignant tumor**
- **B. A benign connective tissue tumor**
- **C. A type of cavity**
- **D. A gum disorder**

2. What does the term open contact refer to in dentistry?

- **A. Space where teeth touch each other**
- **B. Space between adjacent teeth in the same arch**
- **C. A gap caused by tooth decay**
- **D. A misalignment of teeth**

3. What is 'mulling' in the context of dental practice?

- **A. The assessment of a patient's needs**
- **B. The process of polishing dentures**
- **C. The final step of mixing dental amalgam**
- **D. A method of sterilizing instruments**

4. What characterizes the thickness of a Pesso reamer?

- **A. It is thinner and more flexible**
- **B. It is thicker with larger parallel cutting edges**
- **C. It is used for scaling teeth**
- **D. It is primarily used for extraction procedures**

5. What device is used to isolate the endodontic site during a procedure?

- **A. Dental dam**
- **B. Rubber barrier**
- **C. Isolation cloth**
- **D. Protective screen**

6. What is a retrograde restoration?

- **A. A temporary filling for a cavity**
- **B. A small restoration placed at the apex of a root**
- **C. A type of crown placement**
- **D. A method for root canal therapy**

7. What type of bone loss is associated with even distribution across the dental arch?

A. Vertical bone loss

B. Horizontal bone loss

C. Localized bone loss

D. Angular bone loss

8. What is a characteristic of deciduous teeth?

A. They are permanent

B. They will eventually fall out

C. They are harder than permanent teeth

D. They have a different root structure

9. What is the primary use of a root tip pick?

A. To remove dental plaque

B. To extract wisdom teeth

C. To remove root tips or fragments from a surgical site

D. To smooth the edges of teeth

10. Which anatomical feature does the tragus refer to?

A. A prominence in front of the external ear opening

B. An area at the back of the throat

C. A structure within the eye

D. A muscle in the jaw

Answers

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. A

Explanations

1. What is a fibroma?

A. A malignant tumor

B. A benign connective tissue tumor

C. A type of cavity

D. A gum disorder

A fibroma is classified as a benign connective tissue tumor. This type of tumor arises from fibrous connective tissue and is non-cancerous, meaning it does not invade surrounding tissues or spread to other parts of the body like malignant tumors do. Fibromas can appear in various locations in the body, including the oral cavity, where they may present as firm, raised lesions on the gums or other oral tissues. The benign nature of a fibroma implies that it usually does not cause serious health issues and might not require aggressive treatment unless it interferes with normal function or becomes bothersome to the patient. Understanding the characteristics of fibromas is essential for proper diagnosis and management in dental practice. This knowledge can help professionals differentiate between various types of oral lesions, ensuring accurate identification and appropriate treatment strategies.

2. What does the term open contact refer to in dentistry?

A. Space where teeth touch each other

B. Space between adjacent teeth in the same arch

C. A gap caused by tooth decay

D. A misalignment of teeth

The term "open contact" in dentistry specifically refers to the space between adjacent teeth in the same arch. This situation can occur when there is a lack of contact between the surfaces of neighboring teeth, which is considered abnormal. Open contacts can lead to various dental issues, such as food impaction, periodontal disease, and increased plaque buildup in the areas where teeth do not touch properly. Understanding this term is important in dental practice because it helps identify issues that may need correction, such as the need for restorative work or orthodontic treatment to improve dental alignment and contact. Knowing that open contact is characterized by a gap between adjacent teeth distinguishes it from concepts like proper occlusion, where teeth are meant to touch in a way that prevents food from getting trapped and promotes oral health.

3. What is 'mulling' in the context of dental practice?

A. The assessment of a patient's needs

B. The process of polishing dentures

C. The final step of mixing dental amalgam

D. A method of sterilizing instruments

Mulling specifically refers to the final step in the process of mixing dental amalgam. During this stage, the materials used to create the amalgam—typically a combination of mercury, silver, tin, and copper—are thoroughly mixed to ensure a homogeneous consistency. This consistency is crucial for the amalgam to perform effectively once placed in a patient's dental cavity. Proper mulling ensures optimal physical properties like strength and durability, which are essential for the material to withstand the forces of chewing. In contrast to the other options, while assessment of a patient's needs, polishing dentures, and sterilizing instruments are important aspects of dental practice, they do not pertain to the specific process of creating dental amalgam. Each of those actions addresses different aspects of patient care, but mulling distinctly identifies the critical step that ensures the amalgam is properly prepared for use.

4. What characterizes the thickness of a Pesso reamer?

A. It is thinner and more flexible

B. It is thicker with larger parallel cutting edges

C. It is used for scaling teeth

D. It is primarily used for extraction procedures

The thickness of a Pesso reamer is characterized by its being thicker with larger parallel cutting edges. Pesso reamers are specifically designed for mechanical instrumentation in root canal therapy. Their structure features a robust design that provides more resistance and stability during the preparation of root canals. The larger, parallel cutting edges facilitate efficient removal of dentin, which is essential when shaping the canal to ensure effective cleaning and disinfection. This thickness helps prevent breakage during use, which can be a risk with thinner, more flexible instruments. Such characteristics make the Pesso reamer a vital tool in endodontic procedures rather than for tasks like scaling teeth or extraction, which require different types of instruments.

5. What device is used to isolate the endodontic site during a procedure?

A. Dental dam

B. Rubber barrier

C. Isolation cloth

D. Protective screen

The dental dam is specifically designed to isolate the endodontic site during procedures, providing a clean and dry working area. By creating a barrier between the saliva and the tooth being treated, it helps facilitate precise work and minimizes contamination from bacteria and fluids in the mouth. The use of a dental dam is particularly important in endodontics, where visibility and infection control are crucial for successful outcomes. Other options like a rubber barrier, isolation cloth, or protective screen may serve purposes in different contexts or other types of dental procedures, but they do not offer the same level of effective isolation and protection as a dental dam does during endodontic treatments. A dental dam is universally recognized in dental practice as the standard for isolating teeth during various procedures, especially in endodontics.

6. What is a retrograde restoration?

A. A temporary filling for a cavity

B. A small restoration placed at the apex of a root

C. A type of crown placement

D. A method for root canal therapy

A retrograde restoration refers specifically to a small restorative procedure performed at the apex of a tooth root, typically used in situations where a standard restoration cannot effectively seal a tooth. This technique is often employed in endodontic treatments when the traditional approach doesn't achieve the desired outcome. In cases of persistent periapical pathology, a retrograde restoration can help to seal the root canal from the apex, thereby preventing further infection and promoting healing of the surrounding tissues. This specialized type of restoration may utilize materials that bond well to tooth structure and are designed to withstand the pressures of mastication. The other options do not accurately describe a retrograde restoration's purpose or application. A temporary filling is a short-term solution, a type of crown placement refers to a different restorative procedure, and while root canal therapy involves similar principles, it does not specifically denote placement at the apex of a root. Understanding the unique function of retrograde restorations is crucial for effective dental treatment and management.

7. What type of bone loss is associated with even distribution across the dental arch?

A. Vertical bone loss

B. Horizontal bone loss

C. Localized bone loss

D. Angular bone loss

The correct choice is associated with horizontal bone loss, which refers to the pattern of bone loss that occurs evenly across the dental arch. This type of bone loss typically results from periodontal disease or other systemic conditions that affect the supporting structures of the teeth. Unlike vertical bone loss, which is characterized by a reduction in bone height or depth around specific teeth, horizontal bone loss maintains a uniform distance across the entire area, resulting in equal loss of bone support between adjacent teeth. This can lead to changes in the alignment of teeth and overall dental health, but it does not produce the uneven or tooth-specific loss seen in localized or angular bone loss. Localized bone loss occurs in specific areas around a tooth, often due to localized infection or trauma, while angular bone loss refers to a more severe, angular pattern of bone loss, typically involving the crestal bone around a tooth. Understanding the distinctions between these types of bone loss is crucial for diagnosing periodontal diseases and planning effective treatments.

8. What is a characteristic of deciduous teeth?

A. They are permanent

B. They will eventually fall out

C. They are harder than permanent teeth

D. They have a different root structure

Deciduous teeth, also known as primary or baby teeth, are characterized by their temporary nature. They will eventually fall out as part of the natural process of dental development, making way for the permanent teeth that will replace them. This characteristic is important for proper oral development and function as children grow. The other options do not accurately describe deciduous teeth. Unlike permanent teeth, which are meant to last a lifetime, deciduous teeth serve as placeholders for the permanent teeth and have a predetermined lifespan. Although they are not necessarily harder than permanent teeth, the structure and composition differ; they tend to be smaller and less durable than their permanent counterparts. Understanding the lifecycle and purpose of deciduous teeth is essential in pediatric dentistry and the overall field of dental health.

9. What is the primary use of a root tip pick?

A. To remove dental plaque

B. To extract wisdom teeth

C. To remove root tips or fragments from a surgical site

D. To smooth the edges of teeth

The primary use of a root tip pick is to remove root tips or fragments from a surgical site. This tool is specifically designed to aid dental professionals during procedures where remnants of tooth roots may be left behind after an extraction. The pick allows for precise navigation in the confined space of the tooth socket, ensuring that all fragments are effectively removed to promote healing and prevent complications such as infection or cyst formation. While other tools and techniques are utilized for tasks like plaque removal, wisdom tooth extraction, or smoothing edges of teeth, the root tip pick's unique design is tailored for the specific challenge of dealing with root fragments, making it indispensable in surgical settings focused on complete tooth extraction. This specialization is what distinguishes the root tip pick from other dental instruments and underscores its importance in ensuring thorough dental care.

10. Which anatomical feature does the tragus refer to?

A. A prominence in front of the external ear opening

B. An area at the back of the throat

C. A structure within the eye

D. A muscle in the jaw

The tragus is specifically described as a small, rounded, protruding structure located in front of the external ear opening. This anatomical feature plays a role in the ear's overall shape and can help direct sound waves into the ear canal. Its prominence can often be felt easily when one touches the area near the ear. Understanding the tragus is important in various medical and dental contexts, especially when considering ear examinations or procedures that may involve the outer ear. The other options refer to entirely different anatomical structures. The area at the back of the throat is known as the oropharynx, which is unrelated to the ear. A structure within the eye may refer to elements such as the lens, cornea, or retina, none of which are connected to the tragus. Finally, a muscle in the jaw pertains to muscles such as the masseter or temporalis, which are involved in chewing and jaw movement, also distinct from the tragus. Understanding the specific location and function of the tragus within the context of ear anatomy is crucial for accurately identifying auditory-related structures.