



BASIC DENTAL TERMINOLOGY

Term	Definition
Amalgam <i>Silver filling</i>	Dental material used to repair cavities. Usually consists of a mixture of silver, copper, tin and sometimes zinc particles combined with mercury.
Banding	The process of cementing orthodontic bands to your teeth
Bitewing X-rays	X-rays where only the crowns and part of the roots are seen for 2-3 adjacent teeth. Called this because the x-ray film holder provides a surface to bite down on and hold the x-ray in place. Two to four of upper and lower back teeth are usually taken.
Board Certified	A dentist that has been approved by the American Dental Society to practice a particular specialty. Board certified dentists have demonstrated at least two years of residency within a particular dental specialty and have been certified to be competent in the specialty.
Bridges	Dental work that involves supporting a permanent replacement tooth between two healthy teeth made with crowns and pontics. The crowns cover the teeth next to the missing teeth (abutments) and the pontics are the artificial teeth.
Bruxism <i>Grinding</i>	Clenching or grinding of your teeth
Buccal	This is the cheek side of the tooth surface
Calculus <i>Tartar</i>	A hardened material formed by mineralization of dental plaque that has gone untreated
Canines <i>Fang teeth or Cuspid</i>	The teeth located just to the left and right of the lateral incisors
Caries	Another word for cavities or tooth decay
Composite Fillings <i>White fillings or Resin</i>	Made from a resin and particles that are mixed together and then given time to cure and harden
Crown	The part of your tooth above your gum which is covered by enamel
Curettage	A periodontal procedure which involves scraping off plaque to the bottom of the damaged gum tissue and removal of the damaged gum tissue.
Cusps	A point on the grinding surface of a tooth
Debridement	Treatment of bacterial infection by removing irritants from the periodontal pocket
Deciduous Teeth	Baby teeth
Dentin	The main tissue that forms the shape of the tooth. Exists between the pulp and the enamel
Dentures <i>Falsies</i>	A prosthetic used to replace missing natural teeth
Distal	Tooth surface that faces away from the midline of the mouth
Dorsal	The top surface of the tooth
Enamel	A hard ceramic which covers your tooth



Term	Definition
Endodontics	Diagnosis and treatment of tooth pulp diseases
Facial	Tooth surface that is closest to the face
First Bicuspid	The teeth just behind the cuspid
First Molar	The teeth just behind the bicuspid
Fluoride	A chemical substance known to strengthen teeth enamel making teeth less susceptible to decay
Full Mouth X-rays	12-18 films of bitewings and periapical x-rays that show your whole mouth
General Anesthesia	A class of anesthesia that is inhaled as gas
Gingivectomy	A surgical procedure performed by a periodontist to remove diseased or inflamed gum tissue
Gingivitis	Inflammation of the gum tissue
Gold Fillings	Alternative to amalgams
Impacted Tooth	A tooth that is blocked by an adjacent tooth preventing it from erupting the surface of the gum. Usually wisdom teeth.
Implants	A metal rod that is screwed into the jaw where teeth are missing. A pontic is then fitted over the rod to replace missing teeth.
Incisal Edge	Biting surface of the tooth
Inlay	Precision case filling cemented in a prepared cavity
Labial	Surface of the tooth next to the lips
Lateral incisors	The teeth located just to the left and right of the central incisors
Local Anesthesia	Anesthesia that is injected directly into the gums or mouth tissue
Maintenance	Regularly scheduled dental visits
Malocclusion	Refers to abnormal or malposition relationships of the maxillary teeth to the mandibular teeth
Mandible	Lower Jaw
Maxilla	Upper Jaw
Mesial	Tooth surface that faces toward the midline of the mouth
Molars	Teeth found in the back of the mouth after the canines
Neuroleptic Anesthesia	I.V. sedation
Occlusal	Biting surface of the posterior, bicuspid and molar teeth
Occlusal X-rays	Larger x-rays taken to show the whole bite of the upper and lower jaw
Occlusion	Alignment between the upper and lower jaw
Onlay	A large filling covering a substantial part of the chewing surface of the tooth
Oral Surgery	Dealing primarily with the removal of teeth, treatment of jaw fractures, removal of tumors and correction of malformed facial bones
Orthodontia	Braces



Term	Definition
Orthodontics	Area of dentistry that specializes in putting the mouth back in proper function
Osseous Surgery	Repair of the bone structure supporting the teeth damaged by gum disease
Panoramic X-rays	A type of X-ray where the machine makes a complete half circle from ear to ear
Partial denture	Removable artificial teeth
Periapical X-rays	X-ray that provides complete view of the tooth from crown to root
Perio Charting	Numeric assignment indicating the depth of a periodontal probe which is used to measure between the teeth and the adjacent gums; big number = big space = more likely to have periodontal disease.
Periodontics	The diagnosis and treatment of tissues which surround and support the teeth
Periodontal Disease <i>Perio</i>	Pertaining to the gum tissues and the bone that supports the teeth
Plaque	A sticky film that is colorless and odorless
Polishing	A dental procedure that removes stain and plaque
Pontic	An artificial tooth in a fixed bridge
Porcelain Fillings	Alternate to Amalgams
Post	A metal projection which helps support a crown
Posterior Teeth	Refers to the premolar and molar teeth
Premolars	Two-cuspid teeth immediately in front of the molars
Prophylaxis <i>Cleaning</i>	Cleaning the teeth to remove tartar and plaque
Prosthetics	Dental implants or artificial teeth
Prosthodontics	Replacement of missing teeth
Pulp	Living part of the tooth that's located inside the dentin
Quadrant	One quarter of the mouth
Radiograph	X-ray
Reline	Addition of new material on the underside of a denture
Restorations	A replacement for lost tooth structure or teeth
Root	The part of the tooth below the gums
Root Canal	A four-step process required when the inner pulp of the tooth is irreversibly damaged. Step 1: Remove all of the inner pulp from the chamber of the tooth. Step 2: Clean and smooth the inside of the tooth. Step 3: Fill the tooth with an inert material. Step 4: Place an artificial crown on top of the tooth.
Scaling + Root Cleaning	Scraping plaque off of teeth below the gum line or on the root of the tooth to prevent or control disease. This is not a cleaning.
Sealants	Plastic liquid placed on the top surfaces of posterior teeth to make it easier to clean teeth
Second Bicuspid	Teeth just behind the first bicuspids; they have two cuspals (points)



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Second Molar <i>12 Year Molar</i>	Teeth just behind the first molar; they have a level surface with 4 cuspals
Space Maintainer	Gadget used to maintain a space in your mouth; a space maintainer might be used if a child loses a baby tooth to keep the space open until the permanent tooth comes in.
Tartar	Hard mineralized deposits on teeth which can not be removed by brushing and flossing; it must be removed by a dental professional
Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ)	General class of disorder affecting the bones and muscles of TMJ; symptoms range from tenderness and swelling to headaches and neck/back aches; often a clicking or popping sound occurs when jaw is opened or closed.
Third Molar <i>Wisdom Teeth</i>	Teeth behind second molar; they have a level surface with four cuspals (points)
Tooth Surface	One of the five sides of a tooth above the gum line
Topical Anesthesia	Anesthesia applied directly to the gums or mouth tissue to numb the immediate area; examples are lidocaine and benzocaine.
Toxicity	Referring to the human safety of a product or ingredient
Usual + Customary	Fee regularly charged for a service or supply to the majority of the dentists patients. Not to exceed the amount charged by the majority of the dentists in the same locality.
Ventral Surface	The underside of the tongue
X-Rays	High frequency light (radiation) which penetrate different substances with different rates of absorption; four common types: periapical, bitewing, occlusal, and panoramic.



EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONSULTANT

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Evan Cole partners with his clients to advise and assist them with their employee benefit plans, specializing in group and association plans. Prior to joining Aldrich, Evan was a top producing employee benefits representative for one of the nation's largest life, disability, and dental carriers. He holds licenses for life and health in the states of Oregon, Washington, and California. Evan is also an active member of the Oregon Association of Health Underwriters and supporter of the ACE Mentor Program of Oregon.

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