DELTA DENTAL®

# Glossary of Terms

Dentists use a lot of terms to describe problems and procedures. They would be glad to explain any term you don't know, of course, but here are a few:

## A

### ABSCESS
Acute or chronic localized inflammation with a collection of pus, associated with tissue destruction and, frequently, swelling.

### ABRASION
Tooth wear caused by forces other than chewing, such as improper brushing.

### ABUTMENT
A tooth or implant used to support an artificial device replacing teeth.

### ACID ETCHIN
Applying an acid to the tooth-enamel surface to provide retention for bonding.

### ALLOPLASTIC
Synthetic material used for tissue augmentation.

### ALVEOLAR
The bone to which a tooth is attached.

### ALVEOLOPLASTY
The recontouring of bone structures, usually in preparation for a prosthesis.

### AMALGAM
A mixture of mercury, silver, tin, and copper used to fill cavities.

### ANALGESIA
Loss of pain sensations without loss of consciousness.

### ANESTHESIA
Removal of sensation. General anesthesia: a controlled state of unconsciousness. Local anesthesia: drug-induced elimination of sensation in one part of the body.

### ANTERIOR
The teeth and tissues located towards the front of the mouth.

### APEX
The tip or end of the root end of the tooth.

### APICOECTOMY
Amputation of a tooth apex (root tip).

### ARCH, DENTAL
Upper or lower jaw.

### AVULSION
Separation of tooth from its socket due to trauma; scientific term for "having a tooth knocked out."

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## B

### BAND
A metal ring orthodontists cement to a tooth as part of the bracing process.

### BICUSPID
A tooth with two cusps, usually a premolar tooth.

### BILATERAL
Both sides.

### BIOPSY
Process of removing tissue for evaluation.

### BITEWING RADIOGRAPH
A side-view mouth X-ray.

### BONDING
A composite resin that changes the shape or color of a tooth.

### BRIDGE
A fixed partial denture replacing one or more missing teeth. Bridges can be fixed or removable.

### BRUXISM
Grinding and/or clenching of teeth.

### BUCCAL
Pertaining to or around the cheek.

## C

### CALCULUS
Hard mineralized plaque attached to crowns and/or roots of teeth.

### CANAL
The space inside the root portion of a tooth containing pulp tissue; the passage which transmits vessels and nerves through the jaw.

### CANTILEVER EXTENSION
Part of a fixed prosthesis supported at one end only.

### CARIES
Tooth decay.

### CAVITY
Decay in tooth caused by caries; also referred to as carious lesion.

### CEMENT BASE
Material used under a filling to replace lost tooth structure.

### CEMENTUM
Hard connective tissue covering the tooth root.

### CEPHALOMETRIC RADIOGRAPH
A full-head X-ray.

### CLEFT PALATE
Congenital deformity resulting in lack of fusion of the soft and/or hard palate.

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## CLENCHING
The clamping and pressing of the jaws and teeth together, frequently associated with psychological stress or physical effort.

## CLOSED REDUCTION
The repositioning of a fractured bone without surgery.

## COMPOSITE
A dental restorative material.

## COMPOUND FRACTURE
A broken bone exposed to external contamination.

## COPING
A thin covering of a tooth crown applied as part of a restoration.

## CORONAL
The crown of a tooth.

## CROWN
A restoration that covers or "caps" a tooth to restore it to its normal shape and size. Anatomical crowns: The normal enamel covering of a tooth. Abutment crown: An artificial crown that supports a dental prosthesis. Artificial crown: A restoration that covers most or all of a tooth crown. Clinical crown: The part of a tooth not covered by supporting tissues.

## CURETTAGE
Scraping or cleaning the walls of a cavity or gingival pocket.

## CUSP
An extruded part of the chewing surface of a tooth.

## CYST
A cavity containing fluid or soft matter.

# D

## DEBRIDEMENT
Removal of plaque, calculus and/or tissue.

## DECAY
Carious lesions in a tooth resulting in decomposition of tooth structure.

## DECIDUOUS
Used to describe primary (baby) teeth.

## DENTAL PROPHYLAXIS
Scaling and polishing procedure that removes plaque, calculus, and stains.

## DENTIN
The part of the tooth beneath enamel and cementum.

## DENTITION
The teeth in the dental arch. Permanent dentition refers to permanent teeth; deciduous dentition refers to deciduous (baby) teeth.

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## DENTURE
An artificial substitute for natural teeth and adjacent tissues.

## DENTURE BASE
The part of a denture that contacts soft tissue and holds the artificial teeth.

## DIAGNOSTIC CAST
Plaster or stone model of teeth and adjoining tissues; also referred to as study model.

## DIASTEMA
A space, often used to refer to a space between adjacent teeth.

## DIRECT PULP CAP
Covering exposed tooth pulp with a dressing or cement.

## DISPLACED TOOTH
Partial loss of a tooth due to trauma.

## DISTAL
Toward the back of the dental arch.

## DRY SOCKET
Inflammation of the tooth socket following a tooth extraction.

# E

## EDENTULOUS
Without teeth.

## ENAMEL
Hard calcified tissue covering dentin of the crown of tooth.

## ENDODONTIST
A dental specialist who treats disease and injuries of the tooth pulp.

## EQUILIBRATION
Reshaping the biting surfaces of teeth to create proper adjustment and alignment.

## EVALUATION
Periodic oral evaluation: a regular dental checkup. Limited oral evaluation — problem-focused: an exam limited to a specific oral-health problem. Comprehensive oral evaluation: a thorough evaluation of hard and soft tissues. Detailed and extensive oral evaluation — problem-focused, by report: a detailed and extensive problem-focused evaluation.

## EVULSION
Complete separation of the tooth from its socket due to trauma (avulsion). A knocked-out tooth.

## EXCISION
Surgical removal of bone or tissue.

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### EXUDATE
A byproduct of inflammation or necrosis (death of tissue) containing fluid, cells, and/or other debris.

## F

### FACIAL
The surface of a tooth directed toward the face.

### FILLING
The restoring of lost tooth structure using materials like metal, alloy, plastic, or cement.

### FRACTURE
In dentistry, the breaking of a tooth.

### FRENUM
Muscle fibers covered by a mucous membrane that attach the cheek, lips and/or tongue to associated structures.

### FURCATION
The area of a multirooted tooth where the roots diverge.

## G

### GINGIVA
The soft tissues overlying the crowns of unerupted teeth and encircling the necks of erupted teeth.

### GINGIVECTOMY
The removal of gingiva.

### GINGIVITIS
Inflammation of the gingival tissues.

### GINGIVOPLASTY
A process that reshapes gingiva into a normal, functional form.

### GRAFT
A piece of tissue or alloplastic material put in contact with tissue to repair a defect or supplement a deficiency.

## H

### HEMISECTION
Surgical separation of a multirooted tooth so that one root and/or the overlaying portion of the crown can be surgically removed.

### HETEROLOGOUS
Made up of tissue not normal to the part.

## I

### IMAGING, DIAGNOSTIC
Includes, but is not limited to, CAT scans, MRIs, photographs, and X-rays.

### IMMEDIATE DENTURE
Prosthesis that is placed immediately after removing natural teeth.

### IMPACTED TOOTH
An unerupted or partially erupted tooth that is blocked from surfacing by another tooth, bone, or soft tissue.

# Glossary of Terms

### IMPLANT
A device placed surgically in bone as support for a prosthesis.

### IMPLANTATION, TOOTH
Placement of an artificial or natural tooth into a socket.

### INDIRECT PULP CAP
Procedure in which the nearly exposed pulp is covered with a protective dressing to protect the pulp from additional injury and to promote healing and repair.

### INLAY
A dental restoration made outside of the mouth and then applied to a tooth.

### INTENTIONAL REIMPLANTATION
The intentional removal, repair and replacement of a tooth into its socket.

### INTERPROXIMAL
Between the adjoining surfaces of adjacent teeth.

### INTRACORONAL
Within the crown of a tooth.

### INTRAORAL
Inside the mouth.

## J

### JAW
A common name for either the maxilla or the mandible.

## L

### LABIAL
Pertaining to or around the lip.

### LESION
An injury or wound; area of diseased tissue.

### LINE ANGLE
Used to designate the junction of two tooth surfaces or two walls of a tooth-cavity preparation.

### LINGUAL
Pertaining to or around the tongue.

## M

### MAINTENANCE, PERIODONTAL
Therapy for preserving the health of the periodontium.

### MALAR
Pertaining to the cheek bone.

### MALIGNANT
Cancerous.

### MALOCCLUSION
Improper alignment of biting or chewing surfaces.

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## MANDIBLE
Lower jaw.

## MAXILLA
The upper jaw.

## MESIAL
Toward the midline of the dental arch.

## MOLAR
Teeth back of the premolars (bicuspids) on either side of the jaw; grinding teeth, having large crowns and broad chewing surfaces.

## MOULAGE
A wax or plaster cast-mold reproduction of the face.

# N

## NON-AUTOGENOUS
A graft from a donor other than the patient.

# O

## OBTURATOR
A prosthesis that closes an opening in the palate.

## OCCLUSAL RADIOGRAPH
An X-ray where the film is held between the teeth.

## OCCLUSION
Any contact between biting or chewing surfaces of maxillary (upper) and mandibular (lower) teeth.

## ONLAY
A restoration made outside the mouth that replaces a tooth cusp or cusps.

## ORAL
Pertaining to the mouth.

## ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON
A dental specialist who diagnoses and treats diseases, injuries, deformities, defects, and aesthetic aspects of the mouth and jaw.

## ORAL PATHOLOGY
The specialty concerned with recognition, diagnosis, investigation, and management of diseases of the mouth, jaws, and adjacent structures.

## ORTHODONTIST
A dental specialist who treats the misalignment of the teeth and their surrounding structures.

## OSTEOPLASTY
Surgical procedure that modifies the bones in the jaws.

## OSTEOTOMY
Surgical cutting of bone.

## OVERDENTURE
Prosthetic device supported by retained teeth roots or implants.

# P

### PALATE
The hard and soft tissues forming the roof of the mouth.

### PALLIATIVE
Action that relieves pain.

### PANORAMIC RADIOGRAPH
An X-ray that shows the entire upper and lower mouth and jaw on a single film.

### PARTIAL DENTURE
A prosthetic device that replaces missing teeth, designed to be removed by the patient.

### PATIENT
An individual who has established a professional relationship with a dentist for the delivery of dental care.

### PEDIATRIC DENTIST
A dental specialist who treats children; formerly known as a pedodontist.

### PERIAPICAL
The area surrounding the end of the tooth root.

### PERIAPICAL RADIOGRAPH
An X-ray made by placing film inside the mouth.

### PERICORONAL
Around the crown of a tooth.

### PERIODONTAL
Pertaining to the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth.

### PERIODONTAL DISEASE
Inflammation of the gingival tissues and/or periodontal membrane.

### PERIODONTAL POCKET
A deepened gingival fissure; a feature of periodontal disease.

### PERIODONTIST
A dental specialist who treats diseases of the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth.

### PERIODONTITIS
Inflammation and loss of the connective tissue of the surrounding structure of teeth.

### PERIRADICULAR
Surrounding a portion of the root of the tooth.

### PLAQUE
A soft sticky substance, composed largely of bacteria, that accumulates on teeth.

### PONTIC
The artificial tooth on a fixed partial denture (bridge).

### POST
A metallic projection cemented within a prepared root canal to strengthen and retain restorative material.

### POSTERIOR
Teeth and tissues towards the back of the mouth – i.e., premolars and molars.

### PREMEDICATION
The use of medications prior to dental procedures.

### PRIMARY DENTITION
The first set of teeth.

### PROPHYLAXIS
A scaling and polishing procedure that removes plaque, calculus and stains.

### PROSTHESIS
Artificial replacement of any part of the body. Dental prosthesis: any device or appliance replacing one or more missing teeth and/or associated structures. Types of prostheses include: definitive prosthesis — a prosthesis to be used over an extended period of time; fixed prosthesis — non-removable tooth-borne dental prosthesis; interim prosthesis — a provisional prosthesis designed for use over a limited period of time; removable prosthesis — dental prosthesis designed to be removed and reinserted by the patient.

### PROSTHODONTIST
A dental specialist who restores natural teeth and replaces missing teeth with artificial substitutes.

### PROVISIONAL
A temporary prosthesis or individual tooth restoration.

### PULP
The connective tissue containing blood vessels and nerves that occupies the pulp cavity of a tooth.

### PULP CAVITY
The space within a tooth containing the pulp.

### PULPECTOMY
Complete removal of pulp tissue from the root-canal space.

### PULPITIS
Inflammation of the pulp.

### PULPOTOMY
Surgical removal of a portion of the pulp with the aim of saving the remaining pulp.

## Q

### QUADRANT
One of four equal sections into which the dental arches are divided.

# R

### RADICULAR
Pertaining to the root.

### RADIOGRAPH
X-ray.

### REBASE
Refitting a denture by replacing the base material.

### REIMPLANTATION, TOOTH
The return of a tooth to its socket.

### RELINE
The process of resurfacing the tissue side of a denture with new material.

### RETAINER
A device used to stabilize teeth.

### ROOT
The portion of the tooth that is covered by cementum and located in the alveolus (socket).

### ROOT CANAL
The chamber within the root of the tooth that contains the pulp.

### ROOT-CANAL THERAPY
The treatment of disease and injuries of the pulp and associated conditions.

### ROOT PLANING
A procedure designed to remove microbial flora, bacterial toxins, calculus, and diseased cementum or dentin on the root surfaces and in the pocket.

# S

### SCALING
Removal of plaque, calculus, and stains from teeth.

### SIALODOCHOPLASTY
Surgical procedure to repair and/or restore a portion of a salivary-gland duct.

### SIALOGRAPHY
X-rays of the salivary ducts and glands.

### SIALOLITHOTOMY
Surgical procedure to remove a stone within a salivary gland or its duct.

### SPLINT
A device used to support, protect, or immobilize oral structures that have been loosened, replanted, fractured, or traumatized.

### STOMATITIS
Inflammation of the mouth membranes.

### STRESS BREAKER
Part of a tooth-borne and/or tissue-borne prosthesis designed to relieve the abutment teeth and their supporting tissues from stress.

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### STUDY MODEL
Plaster or stone model of teeth and adjoining tissues; also referred to as diagnostic cast.

### SUTURE
A stitch used to repair an incision or wound.

## T

### TEMPORARY REMOVABLE PARTIAL DENTURE
An interim prosthesis.

### TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT (TMJ)
The hinge between the mandible (lower jaw) and base of the skull (temporal bone).

### TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT DYSFUNCTION
Abnormal functioning of the TMJ.

### TISSUE CONDITIONING
Material placed in contact with tissues for a limited time to help the tissues heal.

### TRANSPLANTATION, TOOTH
Transfer of a tooth from one socket to another, either in the same or a different person.

### TRISMUS
Restricted ability to open the mouth, usually due to inflammation.

## U

### UNERUPTED
Tooth/teeth that have not penetrated into the oral cavity.

### UNILATERAL
One-sided.

## V

### VENEER
A layer of tooth-colored material attached to the tooth surface. Veneers may be made of porcelain, ceramic, composite, or acrylic resin.

## X

### X-RAY
Radiograph.

### XEROSTOMIA
Decreased salivary secretion that produces a dry and sometimes burning sensation and/or tooth decay.

## Z

### ZYGOMATIC BONE
A cheekbone.