Comprehensive Clinical Dentistry Course in Competency Based Curriculum

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The "Comprehensive Clinical Dentistry" (CCD) course aims at expanding different professional skills and clinical experiences of undergraduate students. Furthermore, the CCD-course targets to enhance their ability to comprehensively manage different oral and dental health problems, to present and to discuss treatment plans using modern evidence-based multidisciplinary patient-centered approaches. Many dental schools around the world include this course as a major course of greatest credit hours of other courses of the undergraduate dental program [1].

The CCD-course is usually offered by the Department of Comprehensive Care in collaboration with all clinical disciplines in a horizontal and vertical integration manner. The onset of the CCD-course is just after the preclinical phase of the dental program. This gives adequate time, two to three years in different dental colleges, for the students to manage their cases with a satisfactory schedule for executing the most suitable treatment plan for each particular case. Moreover, this assures optimum quality oral and dental health care delivery as well as the patients' welfare and satisfaction. This is in line with the new Accreditation Standards for Dental Education Programs by the ADA (American Dental Association). In modern competency-based curricula, during the CCD-course students take a set of competency exams in different clinical specialties [2].

The students are supervised remotely rather than closely, which gives adequate training for independent practice. The performance of the students in the CCD-course depends on providing portfolios for clinical achievements in addition to passing competency exams rather than fulfilling certain clinical requirements. Additionally, the students’ time management and ethical behavior are basic aspects in the routine clinical evaluation throughout the course. The management of patients in the CCD-course includes general dental practice of oral diagnosis, oral surgery, restorative dentistry, Periodontology, endodontics, prosthodontics and orthodontics and, whenever needed, referral for specialists in cases beyond the general dental practice [3].

The Objectives of the course

At the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Perform a comprehensive diagnosis of oral and dental health problems accurately employing all modern diagnostic tools.
2. Develop, present and discuss comprehensive treatment plans conductive to re-establishing and maintaining optimum status of health, function, aesthetics, patient satisfaction and welfare in a logical sequence and progress for optimum quality and evidence-based care.
3. Select, modify and follow the most appropriate comprehensive treatment plan for a particular case in a multidisciplinary, patient-centered care and to refer patients to specialized dental professionals for more extensive procedures beyond the scope of the general dental practice.
4. Competently carry out all prevention, intervention procedures in modern general dental practice as well as accurately prescribe adjunctive therapeutic measures; to present and to discuss completely treated cases.

In conclusion, as part of a competency-based curriculum, the CCD-course augments the students’ skills of self, life-long education and research conduction, thus moving students from discipline-based to competency-based education with a more objectively structured, constructively aligned and outcome-based curriculum. This enables students to attain a life-long learning attitude so that on graduation they may be considered as qualified beginners in dental practice implementing evidence-based and patient-centered approaches.

**Bibliography**

1. Case Western Reserve school of medicine.
3. CODA accreditation standards for dental education.
4. Constructive alignment.