



*First Year Dentistry*

Lecture -I-

History of Dentistry

**A. Definition of Dentistry**

Dentistry is the study of the teeth and the treatment of tooth decay; it also referred to as dental medicine, and branch of medicine that focuses on the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of conditions and disorders in the oral cavity and nearby structures. The latter includes the head, face, jaw, neck, tongue and salivary glands.

**B. The fields of dentistry:** There are nine areas of specialization in the field of dentistry:

1. Dental Public Health: Dental public health is concerned with the prevention and control of disease through community efforts.
2. Endodontic: deals with the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of conditions of the dental pulp and nearby tissues.
3. Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology: The research, identification and diagnosis of illnesses of the teeth, mouth and nearby regions are covered in the specialization of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.
4. Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
5. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
6. Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics
7. Pediatric Dentistry
8. Periodontics
9. Prosthodontics

*Text 1*

1. Since prehistoric times, when people have had issues with their teeth, there have been other people there to help. How we care for our teeth has changed over the past several thousand years, and today we call the professionals who care for our teeth dentists. Evidence of dental decay has been found in teeth from skulls that are 25,000 years old and archaeologists have evidence of the first dental **fillings**<sup>1</sup> in teeth from people who lived around 8000 BC.
2. The first written reference to dental decay is found in a Sumerian text from 5000 BC. Ancient Egyptian papers dating as back as far as 3700 BC have references to diseases of the **teeth**<sup>2</sup>, and describe **substances**<sup>3</sup> to be mixed and applied to the mouth to relieve pain. The first references to dentists are in ancient Egyptian texts from 2700 BC, and refer to a doctor who specializes in treating teeth. Greek writings from 1300 BC by Aesculapius, a Greek physician, discuss **extracting**<sup>4</sup> (or pulling) diseased teeth.
3. Ancient toothpastes included ingredients such as soot, honey, crushed egg shells, and ground ox's hooves. The world's oldest recipe for toothpaste is from Egypt in 400 AD. The formula included mint, salt, grains of pepper and dried iris flower. A modern day dentist made the toothpaste and said, "I found that it was not unpleasant, afterwards my mouth felt fresh and clean." In ancient times people used sticks that were smashed at one end to create a brushing surface.
4. In medieval Europe, in the 1300s to the 1500s, the elite were aware of the importance of keeping their teeth clean and even had liquids to help whiten their teeth. People's tooth troubles were treated by their own **remedies**<sup>5</sup> or by barber **surgeons**<sup>6</sup>. Barber surgeons were jacks-of-all-trades and **pulled teeth**<sup>7</sup>, performed minor surgery, cut hair and applied leeches. The barber dentists usually pulled teeth to treat **decays**<sup>8</sup>, but they also knew how to fill **cavities**<sup>9</sup> and created **false teeth**<sup>10</sup> out of human teeth and cow **bone**<sup>11</sup>.
5. . Poor people often had better teeth than the richer people because poor people would have had very little sugar in their diets. People believed strongly in traditional remedies: if you had a **toothache**<sup>12</sup> in Germany, in medieval times, you would have been told to kiss a donkey to cure your toothache! In 1498, in China, the **bristle**<sup>13</sup> toothbrush was invented. The bristles were made of the **stiff hairs**<sup>14</sup> from the back of a pig's neck. Pig's hair was used in toothbrushes until 1938, when nylon bristles were introduced. Today's toothbrushes have about 2,500 nylon bristles grouped in forty **tufts**<sup>15</sup>.

**1/ Vocabulary**

<b>Nº</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>translation</b>
01	Fillings		
02	Teeth		
03	Substances		
04	Extracting		
05	Toothpaste		
06	Remedies		
07	Surgeons		
08	Pulled teeth		
09	Cavities		
10	False teeth		
11	Bone		
12	Toothache		
13	Bristle		
14	Stiff hairs		
15	Tufts		