

University of Dundee

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

**Clinical Competency in Oral Surgery
History, Challenges and Solutions**

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*‘Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count;
Everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted’*

Albert Einstein, German Physicist 1879-1955.

DECLARATION

This work has not previously been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted in candidature for any degree. This dissertation is the result of my own independent work and investigation except where otherwise stated. Other sources are acknowledged by footnotes giving references. A bibliography is appended.

I am the author of the thesis; that, unless otherwise stated, all references cited have been consulted by the candidate; that the work of which the thesis is a record has been done by the candidate, and that it has not been previously accepted for a higher degree:

Signed.....Candidate

Date.....

CERTIFICATE

We hereby certify that Dr. Christine Hanson is the author and has fulfilled the conditions of ordinance 39 of the University of Dundee and is qualified to submit this thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABAOMS.....	Association of British Academic Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
ANOVA.....	Analysis of Variance
A & E.....	Accident and emergency
ADEE.....	Association for Dental Education in Europe
BDS.....	Bachelor of Dental Surgery
CAHID.....	Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification
DepCap.....	Deprivation per capita
DUDS.....	Dundee University Dental School
F/T.....	Full time
GA.....	General anaesthetic
GDC.....	General Dental Council
GDP.....	General dental practitioner
IUSD.....	Indiana University School of Dentistry
LA.....	Local anaesthetic
LDS.....	Licentiate in Dental Surgery
MDSc.....	Master of dental science
MOS.....	Minor oral surgery
NHS.....	National Health Service
Op-Tec.....	Operative techniques laboratory
OSCE.....	Objective structured clinical examination
PBL.....	Problem based learning
PCD.....	Professions complementary to dentistry
P/T.....	part time
SCOT.....	Structured clinical operative test
SIMD.....	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
SWOT.....	Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
TOPAS.....	The out-patient appointment system
VLE.....	virtual learning environment
VT.....	vocational trainee
Xn.....	extraction

SUMMARY

This multifaceted study documents, validates, and verifies the changes in oral surgery teaching in Dundee University Dental School, which have changed with time to accommodate the demands of an ever increasingly complex discipline.

Availability of instructive teaching material in hard copy and as video and text on the internet combined with close clinical supervision and detailed assessment with feedback allows students to attain competency in exodontia with falling patient numbers.

It has been demonstrated that the undergraduate training in the oral surgery clinics still attains competency or BDS standard of '*safe beginner*' for simple extractions and minor oral surgery, despite fewer procedures being carried out.

The criteria used for undergraduate assessment and marking of exodontia have been validated in house and nationally. These are appropriate, objective and reliable.

Using Thiel cadavers is a valid and reliable method of teaching undergraduate students the technique of extraction with forceps prior to their clinical exposure. Further employment of the cadavers for continuing practice and the introduction of new skills has been mooted.

The use of the 'Blackboard' was investigated and found not to be well used; the effort to produce the work was not well directed since it was not taken advantage of by the whole year nor very frequently by those who do use it. Alternative methods of engaging the student to investigate and research the discipline have been suggested.

Encouragement of the students to interact more when the exodontia clinic time is available for this opportunity has been introduced and suggestions to increase this activity to enhance the teaching of core topics have been made.

From apprehension to enjoyment our student assure us that they find this discipline worthwhile whilst acknowledging that it will not be a practice builder and that they are equipped to deal with simple oral surgery procedures.