

ENGLISH FOR DENTISTS IN PRACTICE

PART THIRTY – FIVE: THE DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF PULP CONDITIONS

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Read the text below. Complete it with the words from the table

Differential diagnosis is the process of weighing the probability of one disease 1) ___ versus ___ that of other diseases possibly accounting for a patient's illness or condition. The differential diagnosis of dental pain can be the ultimate 2) __ puzzle __. Each patient presents with a different set of signs and symptoms, and from these 3) __ clues ___ the dentist must identify the disease, the etiology, and then recommend appropriate treatment. This process becomes complicated when multiple problems are present at the same time. Eliminating the most obvious cause first will usually lead the way to diagnosis of secondary causes of the patient's 4) _____ complaint _____.

The key to establishing a chief complaint is to use LOVE scheme. LOVE is an acronym for: Listen, Observe, Verify, and Eliminate and helps the dental staff in establishing the real cause of toothache. The first step is to "Listen to your patients. Let them tell you the story of their illness and they will give you the diagnosis." From this history the onset, duration, and type of pain should be documented. Patients will also 5) _____ reveal _____ a lot if you observe their hand gestures and body language. They will frequently place a hand on the area in 6) ___ question _____, and you can learn to read the 7) _____ severity _____ of the pain in their eyes. If you ask patients if they are cold sensitive, they will invariably say yes. But if you ask them if the pain to cold is recent and associated with their current problem, many times the response will be no; and that their teeth are cold sensitive 8) _____ in general _____. Once you have all of the information, it helps to eliminate the irrelevant facts.

Clinical and radiographic examinations provide much of 9) _____ relevant _____ information, but testing the teeth is essential for confirming cause and effect. Basing a treatment decision on clinical and radiographic examination alone is not allowed because it may lead to frequent 10) ___ misdiagnosis _____. Having a patient point to the tooth that hurts is often misleading, due to the 11) _____ complex _____ nature of the innervation in the head and neck. It is common for a tooth to refer pain to another tooth.

Classic tests to help differentiate odontogenic from nonodontogenic pain 12) _____ include _____ thermal, electric pulp tests, percussion, palpation, biting, and transillumination.

Look at the definition below. Try to guess what type of test is being described. One dash stands for one letter

1) TRANSILLUMINAION - is a test which can reveal problems in your teeth that can't be seen with the naked eye or with x-rays. Decay appears in the image as cloudy shadows, while healthy tooth structure is lighter, as light shines through it more easily. It is especially effective in detecting decay under old fillings. It can also reveal fine cracks in the teeth.

2) THERMAL test checks tooth reaction and response by using hot or cold stimuli.

3) PALPATION test during which the tooth is felt with gloved finger of a dentist. This is where the dentist feels the mucosa overlying the roots to see if any swelling is present. If a tooth is particularly infected or an abscess has formed, then there is likely to be some level of inflammation in the bone surrounding the tooth that the dentist can feel.

4) PERCUSSION test, this is where the dentist taps gently on patient's tooth with either a finger or the handle of one of the instruments in order to try and identify the tooth causing the problems.