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Introduction

Understanding oral surgery

Oral surgery is a branch of dentistry that focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and management of various conditions affecting the mouth, jaws, and facial structures. It involves a wide range of procedures, from simple extractions to complex reconstructive and orthognathic surgeries. Oral surgeons are highly trained professionals who work closely with other dental specialists to provide comprehensive care for their patients.

Subspecialties in oral surgery

Oral surgery encompasses several subspecialties, each focusing on specific areas of the mouth and facial structures. These subspecialties include:

Oral and maxillofacial pathology: This subspecialty focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of various conditions affecting the oral cavity and facial structures, including oral cancer, cysts, and infections.

Oral and maxillofacial radiology: This subspecialty involves the use of imaging techniques, such as X-rays, CT scans, and MRI, to diagnose and plan treatment for oral and maxillofacial conditions.

Oral and maxillofacial reconstruction: This subspecialty focuses on the reconstruction of the oral cavity and facial structures after trauma, cancer resection, or congenital defects. Procedures may include bone grafting, free flap transfers, and soft tissue reconstruction.

Craniofacial surgery: This subspecialty deals with the surgical treatment of conditions affecting the skull, face, and jaw. It includes procedures for craniofacial dysmaturity, facial trauma, and congenital anomalies.

Common procedures in oral surgery

Oral surgery encompasses a wide range of procedures, from simple extractions to complex reconstructive and orthognathic surgeries. Some of the most common procedures include:

Tooth extractions: This procedure involves the removal of a tooth, either partially or fully, due to decay, infection, or orthodontic reasons.

Dental implants: This procedure involves the placement of a prosthetic tooth root into the jawbone, which is then covered by a crown or bridge.

Jaw surgery (Orthognathic Surgery): This procedure involves the surgical correction of malocclusion (misaligned bite) and facial deformities.

Facial trauma repair: This procedure involves the surgical repair of facial injuries, such as fractures, lacerations, and soft tissue damage.

Oral Biopsies: This procedure involves the removal of a small sample of tissue from the oral cavity for microscopic examination to diagnose various conditions.

Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) Surgery: This procedure involves the surgical treatment of conditions affecting the temporomandibular joint, such as pain, clicking, and locking.

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