

COLLECTION OF EXTRACTED TEETH
(Revised Feb. 2018)

Dear Dental Student:

Prior to performing dental procedures on patients at UCLA, you will be learning many of the techniques in the teaching laboratory utilizing extracted human teeth. Artificial plastic teeth can be used for many of the learning experiences, but for other procedures, there is no adequate substitute for the real thing. We have no reliable source of extracted teeth at UCLA, and we cannot provide the numbers of teeth that will be needed for teaching purposes. It will be necessary for you to collect teeth from practicing dentists in your area beginning as soon as possible. Dentists, especially oral surgeons, are familiar with the needs of dental students and will usually be very cooperative in regard to collecting teeth. Since many students from many schools are always collecting teeth, you will likely need to ask several dental offices for assistance in this matter.

To provide an adequate selection of teeth for your projects in operative dentistry, fixed prosthodontics and endodontics, you will need to collect 100-150 teeth. The most difficult teeth to find are cavity free, bicuspid, first molars, and upper front teeth. Unfortunately, these are the most needed teeth for the projects you will be required to complete. The more teeth you collect, the easier it will be for you to select an appropriate tooth for each laboratory project.

PROCEDURE:

1. Obtain well-constructed containers (plastic or glass containers with a secure lid).
2. Fill the jars half full with a 1:10 sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) to water solution. Label each jar using the tag below:

TOOTH COLLECTION FOR
Name: _____
Telephone #: () -
1:10 (sodium hypochlorite [bleach] to water)

3. Distribute the jars to several dentists. Inform the dentist or the dental office staff that:
 - You will take all extracted teeth, even if they have decay, restorations, or fractures. Root tips or grossly decayed teeth, however, will not work and can be discarded.
 - Teeth should be cleansed of visible blood and gross debris prior to placing in the storage solution in the jars.
 - The teeth should not be allowed to dry out, but should be placed in the solutions as soon after extraction as is convenient.

- Extracted teeth should always be handled using standard barrier techniques, which includes masks, gloves, protective eyewear and protective clothing.
4. Return regularly to the dental offices to claim collected teeth and encourage further collection.
 5. Have your collection of extracted teeth available for use by January of your first year.

You should begin to collect teeth as soon as possible so that your collection will be adequate for your needs in the pre-clinical courses. Thank you for your efforts and we look forward to meeting you.

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