



## D Y PATIL DENTAL SCHOOL

Affiliated to the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik  
Recognized by Dental Council of India

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### BEST PRACTICE 2

#### 1. Title of the Practice - Visionary learning: Dental loupes and Early Clinical Exposure

#### 2. Objectives:

- To make students aware of advantages of magnification in dentistry to enhance clinical skills, better manual dexterity & ergonomics.
- To offer early learning of dental materials commonly used in clinical practice and inculcate competency crucial for clinical decision-making.

#### 3. The Context:

- Dental loupes provide magnification with which students can easily understand the detailed concepts of cavity preparation.
- Teaching Dental Materials to I and II-year students presents challenge because they lack exposure to clinical settings. Their understanding relies on imagining clinical scenarios rather than experiencing them first-hand. Hence, this program was initiated for second year students to facilitate deeper understanding of preclinical exercises.

#### 4. The Practice:

- **Visual acuity & Precision:** This approach of introducing dental loupes starts with training the students by conducting lecture and workshop two months after new academic session begins. The student takes a tour to magnification room in Department of Conservative Dentistry, in group of 10 students who are allotted a pair of and each group is given loupes to handle, adjust so that they and gets hands on experience.
- **Structured Clinical Rotations:** Early clinical exposure is allotted 65 working hours which includes clinical rotations in Department of Prosthodontics and Conservative Dentistry, aligned with their theory classes. Clinical rotations occur monthly for one and half hours during their preclinical hours. During these rotations, ten students are assigned to one dental chair, where they shadow and observe clinical procedures performed in the dental clinics.
- **Training sessions:** In each academic year, 11 training sessions relevant to clinical situations are conducted, for one hour each during preclinical hours. These topics are chosen to help them handle a clinic efficiently. These training sessions are repeated annually to ensure consistency and comprehensive understanding.
- **Case Scenarios and Simulations:** Department of Prosthodontics and Conservative Dentistry create and present ten case scenarios each, for students to analyse and critically evaluate the clinical situations. These scenarios vary from challenging the



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students to choose appropriate dental materials to plan appropriate treatment in given situation.

Simulations involving phantom heads are utilized to instruct students on the proper handling of dental materials, individually using dental loupes and carrying out cavity preparations, base application and amalgam restoration.


### 5. Evidence of Success:

- Pre- and post-questionnaire data collected after theory sessions and clinical postings respectively revealed more than 90% improvement in students' better understanding of the subject.
- Students' feedback, gathered through Google forms reflect high satisfaction and enthusiasm for the early clinical exposure initiative.

### 6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- Coordinating and supervising clinical rotations, workshops, and other activities with students' academic schedules and clinical placements can be logistically challenging.
- Students must be properly trained in areas such as infection control and patient privacy, must be supervised by clinicians to ensure that they do not compromise patient care.
- Students take time to orient with the use of loupes facing initial problems like eyestrain, headache and neckache.
- The maintenance of dental loupes is an added responsibility.



  
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