

# Case Studies

---

DENTALELLE TUTORING

# Case Study 1

---

Joan always comes in for her cleanings every 3 months, she is always asking questions and wants to do her best. She smokes one pack a day but she feels if she quits she will gain weight. She feels her oral health is good enough now to start whitening and she insists she will continue coming every three months.

Joan has seizures but she's responding very well to her medications. She hasn't had a seizure in over a year.

Upon examination you noticed evidence of mouth breathing.

# Question – How do you know the client is a mouth breather?

---

- A. The gingiva bleeds heavily on the upper anteriors but nowhere else
- B. The client told you
- C. Due to her smoking
- D. Her seizures could have caused this

# Answer

---

- A. The gingiva bleeds heavily on the upper anteriors but nowhere else
- B. The client told you
- C. Due to her smoking
- D. Her seizures could have caused this

# What is Joan's chief complaint?

---

- A. Smoking causes her to gain weight
- B. She wants to whiten
- C. She wants to come in every three months
- D. She wants you to explain everything to her

# Answer

---

- A. Smoking causes her to gain weight
- B. She wants to whiten
- C. She wants to come in every three months
- D. She wants you to explain everything to her

# What could be a seizure medication?

---

- A. Tegretol
- B. Dilantin
- C. Topamax
- D. All of the above

# Answer

---

- A. Tegretol
- B. Dilantin
- C. Topamax
- D. All of the above



# Case Study 2

---

Carmen admits she likes to drink, and says her heavy drinking causes her to forget to brush her teeth daily. Carmen hasn't had her teeth cleaned in 10 years and has been booked at your office several times but always cancels last minute. Most of her front teeth are decayed and Carmen says she "hates the look of them".

# Question – Alcoholism is an unmet human need of:

---

- A. Biologically sound and functional dentition
- B. Freedom from anxiety and stress
- C. Protection from health risks
- D. Responsibility for oral health

# Answer

---

- A. Biologically sound and functional dentition
- B. Freedom from anxiety and stress
- C. Protection from health risks
- D. Responsibility for oral health

# Not seeing a dental hygienist in the past 10 years is an unmet human need of:

---

- A. Biologically sound and functional dentition
- B. Freedom from anxiety and stress
- C. Protection from health risks
- D. Responsibility for oral health

# Answer

---

- A. Biologically sound and functional dentition
- B. Freedom from anxiety and stress
- C. Protection from health risks
- D. Responsibility for oral health
  - Due to inadequate professional oral health care
  - Evidenced by no dental exam within the past 10 years

Carmen later tells you she wants her “front teeth fixed” but can’t afford it. This results in an unmet human need of:

---

- A. Biologically sound and functional dentition
- B. Freedom from anxiety and stress
- C. Protection from health risks
- D. Responsibility for oral health

# Answer

---

- A. Biologically sound and functional dentition
- B. Freedom from anxiety and stress
  - Due to financial burden of dental treatment
  - Evidenced by client telling you, and cancelled appointments in the past
- C. Protection from health risks
- D. Responsibility for oral health

# What is the first thing you will talk to Carmen about?

---

- A. The need to brush at least daily
- B. The need to stop drinking
- C. The need to start saving up for getting her 'front teeth fixed'
- D. The need not to cancel anymore appointments



# Answer

---

- A. The need to brush at least daily
- B. The need to stop drinking
- C. The need to start saving up for getting her 'front teeth fixed'
- D. The need not to cancel anymore appointments

# Case Study 3

---

Virgie is an older lady who seems to have trouble getting in and out of the dental chair. She also appears to be having trouble breathing. She walked here because she doesn't have a car and "hates the bus". As she was leaving you notice her cigarettes fall out of her purse, you ask her about them and she admits to smoking a pack a day.

She has a complete upper denture and says she loves it. She takes it out every night. She also says she doesn't have time to care for her lower teeth. You notice thick, tenacious tartar. She brushes daily and doesn't understand why she needs to come see you to have her teeth cleaned

# The client smokes, what unmet human need is this?

---

- A. Freedom from anxiety and stress
- B. Skin and mucous membrane integrity of the head and neck
- C. Responsibility for oral health
- D. Protection from health risks

# Answer

---

- A. Freedom from anxiety and stress
- B. Skin and mucous membrane integrity of the head and neck
- C. Responsibility for oral health
- D. Protection from health risks

# How can you discuss why cleanings are so important?

---

- A. You can show her the plaque and calculus on the teeth
- B. Take radiographs and show her the plaque
- C. Explain why she needs to take her denture out at night
- D. Tell her she should start brushing 3x a day

# Answer

---

- A. You can show her the plaque and calculus on the teeth
- B. Take radiographs and show her the plaque
- C. Explain why she needs to take her denture out at night
- D. Tell her she should start brushing 3x a day

# The patient is uneasy about her dental appointments and doesn't understand why she needs to come

---

This can be seen as:

- A. Anxiety for her
- B. Trouble with conceptualization and understanding
- C. Her age
- D. A and B

# Answer

---

This can be seen as:

- A. Anxiety for her
- B. Trouble with conceptualization and understanding
- C. Her age
- D. A and B



# Case Study 4

---

Fiona is at college and lives at home with her parents. She has diabetes type II and takes extra care of herself. You see her for cleanings every 6 months. She has noticed her gums look different and are at times sore. She brushes 2x a day but admits to sometimes only once a day if busy

Fiona doesn't eat well because she feels like she is very busy. She takes insulin for her diabetes.

# What would inadequate nutrition fall under?

---

- A. Protection from health risks
- B. Responsibility for oral health
- C. Wholesome facial image
- D. Conceptualization and understanding

# Answer

---

- A. Protection from health risks
- B. Responsibility for oral health
- C. Wholesome facial image
- D. Conceptualization and understanding

# How do you know the client isn't eating well?

---

- A. Diabetes
- B. Sore gingiva
- C. Self-report
- D. She's in college

# Answer

---

- A. Diabetes
- B. Sore gingiva
- C. Self-report
- D. She's in college

# Fiona's diabetes is controlled, what does this mean?

---

- A. She's the same as everyone else
- B. Diabetes is diabetes, she needs extra care
- C. Her gums are sore because of her diabetes
- D. B and C

# Answer

---

- A. She's the same as everyone else
- B. Diabetes is diabetes, she needs extra care
- C. Her gums are sore because of her diabetes
- D. B and C

# Why could her gums be sore?

---

- A. Stress from college
- B. Lack of nutrition
- C. Not brushing as well
- D. All of the above



# Answer

---

- A. Stress from college
- B. Lack of nutrition
- C. Not brushing as well
- D. All of the above