**SPECIALIST DENTISTS' USE OF UNDERGRADUATE PATHOLOGY EDUCATION IN THE CLINIC**

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| **Abstract**  **The education curriculum at the faculty of dentistry includes courses in both general pathology and oral pathology (1).** **In our planned study, we aim to determine the need for pathology knowledge of dentists who have graduated from the faculty of dentistry and have received specialization training in their active professional lives and the importance of pathology education according to specialties. Survey questions(2); 66 specialist dentists who graduated from the faculty of dentistry and received specialization training and working in the clinic (Oral and maxillofacial surgery 18.2%, Radiology and oral diagnosis 13.6%, Endodontics 18.2%, Orthodontics 4.5%, Pedodontics 6%, 1, Periodontology 19.7%, Prosthetic dental treatment 13.6%, Restorative dental treatment 6.1%) were applied.**  **When the benefit of pathology training in the professional life of a specialist dentist was questioned, the specialty that was thought to be most beneficial was oral and maxillofacial surgery, followed by periodontology, radiology and oral diagnosis specialties. The specialty thought to provide the least benefit was restorative dental treatment. When asked whether physicians send biopsies/materials of their patients to the pathology laboratory in their clinical studies and how often they evaluate pathology results/reports, they stated that they most frequently send samples and evaluate reports in the fields of oral and maxillofacial surgery, periodontology, radiology and oral diagnosis, respectively. It was stated that orthodontics, prosthetic dental treatment, restorative dental treatment, pedodontics and endodontics send less materials and read reports.**  **The topics covered in the pathology training curriculum have many overlaps with oral and maxillofacial surgery (3). Similarly, it is known that oral diagnosis and periodontology course subjects have common courses with pathology. In our study, the areas of specialist physicians who benefit from pathology training in the clinic are the areas of specialization where the subjects overlap more with the departments in the training curriculum.Adequate training in basic medical sciences must be given to dentists in order to train them as physicians who do not perceive the patient only as mouth and teeth, but can evaluate the patient as a whole and give the right guidance at the right time when necessary. Integration between basic sciences and dentistry and clinical sciences should be ensured. (4)In order for the pathology education to be permanent and useful, a practice-based curriculum should be organized specific to the departments and to meet the needs in the clinic.** |
| **Keywords:Pathology,Dentistry** |

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