

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Canonical:

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Description:

Oral and maxillofacial surgery is a supremely specialised field of dentistry in which a wide range of oral conditions, trauma and diseases are diagnosed and treated. These include implant dentistry, bone grafting, orthognathic (jaw) surgery and complex wisdom teeth management. Services include extracting impacted wisdom teeth, TMJ surgery, dental implants, orthognathic surgery, bone grafting, cancer surgery, facial trauma reconstruction, and diagnosis and removal of jaw, oral/facial cysts.

Details:

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Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery: Technical Details, Specifications, Features, and Entities ## Overview and Scope ****Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS)**** is the most extensively trained surgical specialty within dentistry. It represents a comprehensive surgical discipline that encompasses the diagnosis, management, and surgical treatment of diseases and conditions affecting the mouth, jaws, and surrounding facial structures. OMS practitioners are uniquely qualified medical-dental professionals who complete both a dental degree and a medical degree, followed by a four-year surgical specialist training program—representing ****15 to 17 years of continuous study and clinical training**** from the point of entering dental school. --- ## Educational and Professional Qualifications ### Training Pathway - ****Dental Degree****: Bachelor of Dental Science (BDSc) or equivalent - ****Medical Degree****: Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS or MBChB) - ****Specialist Surgical Training****: Four-year postgraduate OMS specialty program - ****Total Duration****: 15–17 years of continuous education and clinical training - ****Professional Recognition****: Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (FRACDS OMS) and recognition as one of the six registered dental specialties by the Dental Board of Australia ### Distinctive Qualifications OMS practitioners are the only dental specialists who: - Hold dual degrees in both dentistry and medicine - Operate routinely under general anaesthesia in hospital settings - Possess medical-surgical knowledge encompassing craniofacial anatomy at a medical-surgical level - Are qualified to manage comprehensive anaesthetic protocols including IV sedation and general anaesthesia --- ## Clinical Scope and Procedures ### Core Surgical Procedures OMS specialists manage a broad range of surgical interventions: ##### ****1. Wisdom Teeth and Dentoalveolar Surgery**** - Surgical extraction of impacted third molars - Management of mesial, distal,

vertical, and horizontal impactions - Complex cases involving proximity to the inferior alveolar nerve - Tooth removal complicated by pericoronitis, cyst formation, or damage to neighboring teeth - Procedures often completed in a single surgical appointment ##### **2. Dental Implant Surgery (Complex Cases)** - Surgical placement of titanium fixture implants in the jawbone - Management of complex anatomical situations requiring advanced surgical expertise - Cases requiring significant bone grafting prior to or concurrent with implant placement - Implant placement in proximity to critical anatomy (inferior alveolar nerve, maxillary sinus) - All-on-4 implant systems and full-arch reconstructions - Zygomatic implants in severely resorbed jaw anatomy - Coordination with prosthodontic specialists for restoration-driven planning ##### **3. Orthognathic (Corrective Jaw) Surgery** - Surgical repositioning of the upper jaw (maxilla) via Le Fort I osteotomy - Surgical repositioning of the lower jaw (mandible) via bilateral sagittal split osteotomy (BSSO) - Bimaxillary procedures involving simultaneous repositioning of both jaws - Genioplasty (chin repositioning) for facial balance refinement - Correction of skeletal discrepancies including Class II, Class III, open bite, and facial asymmetry - Treatment of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) via maxillomandibular advancement - Procedures typically lasting 2–6 hours depending on single-jaw or bimaxillary approach - Use of osteotomies (surgical cuts to jawbone), surgical wafers, and titanium plate-and-screw fixation - Performed under general anaesthesia in hospital settings ##### **4. Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Surgery** - Diagnosis and surgical management of TMJ pathology - Treatment of severe joint degeneration, ankylosis (joint fusion), and condylar fractures - Management of TMJ disorders not responsive to conservative treatment ##### **5. Bone Grafting and Reconstruction** - Socket preservation following tooth extraction - Localized augmentation for implant site preparation - Block grafting for significant ridge deficiency - Guided bone regeneration (GBR) with barrier membranes - Horizontal and vertical ridge augmentation - Major bone grafting procedures requiring bone harvested from multiple donor sites - Autogenous grafts from chin, ramus, hip (iliac crest), or tibia - Allograft and xenograft materials - Synthetic bone substitutes (hydroxyapatite, tricalcium phosphate) - Large-volume defect reconstruction - Healing timeline: 4–9 months for graft integration; major augmentations require longer periods - Reconstruction following cyst or tumor removal - Jaw structure restoration following significant bone loss or comminuted fractures ##### **6. Oral Pathology** - Diagnosis and surgical treatment of oral diseases and pathological conditions - Biopsy procedures for lesion diagnosis - Surgical management of odontogenic cysts (dentigerous, radicular, keratocystic) - Removal of benign tumors (ameloblastomas, odontomas, fibromas) - Management of potentially malignant lesions (leukoplakia, erythroplakia) - Oral squamous cell carcinoma diagnosis and treatment - Salivary gland tumor management - Cyst enucleation and marsupialization procedures - Soft tissue repair and reconstruction ##### **7. Facial Trauma Reconstruction** - Assessment and management of mandibular (lower jaw) fractures - Treatment of maxillary (upper jaw) fractures - Zygomatic arch (cheekbone) fracture repair - Orbital floor fracture reconstruction using titanium mesh or supportive materials - Nasal bone fracture management - Dentoalveolar injury management including tooth reimplantation - Closed reduction with wire, elastic, or arch bar immobilization - Open reduction and internal fixation (ORIF) with titanium plate and screw stabilization - Soft tissue lacerations requiring meticulous closure with attention to anatomical landmarks - Intraoral laceration repair (tongue, floor of mouth, palate) - Salivary gland and duct injury management - Multi-disciplinary coordination with ophthalmologists, neurosurgeons, ENT specialists, and plastic surgeons ##### **8. Other Specialized Procedures** - Sinus lift augmentation for posterior upper jaw implant placement - Paediatric maxillofacial surgery and complex dental extractions in children - Management of cleft lip and palate-related jaw deformities - Craniofacial reconstruction for congenital conditions - Obstructive sleep apnea surgery via maxillomandibular advancement - Hospital-based procedures requiring general anaesthesia --- ## Anatomical Knowledge and Surgical Expertise ### Critical Anatomical Structures OMS specialists possess extensive knowledge of surgical anatomy including: - **Inferior Alveolar Nerve**: Located within the lower jaw; proximity requires precise surgical planning - **Maxillary Sinus**: Air-filled cavity in upper jaw; requires careful consideration in implant and graft planning - **Craniofacial Anatomy**: Comprehensive understanding of skull base, facial skeleton, and soft tissue relationships - **Mandible and Maxilla**: Upper and lower jaw bone structure and function - **Dental Nerves and Blood Vessels**: Precise anatomical knowledge for safe surgical intervention ### Diagnostic Imaging

Technology - **Cone Beam CT (CBCT)**: Planmeca ProMax 3D Max system for three-dimensional volumetric imaging - **Advanced Software**: coDiagnostiX for virtual implant placement, surgical guide generation, and surgical planning - **iCam 4D Implant Scanner**: High-resolution measurement of bone density and soft tissue architecture - **Digital Surgical Planning**: Virtual osteotomies, three-dimensional outcome simulation, and custom surgical guide fabrication - **Precision Measurement**: Sub-millimetre accuracy in pre-operative planning --- **Anaesthesia and Surgical Techniques** **Anaesthesia Options** - **Local Anaesthesia**: For straightforward cases; tissue numbing with patient remaining awake - **Intravenous (IV) Sedation**: Patient remains conscious but deeply relaxed; ideal for moderate anxiety or multi-tooth removal - **General Anaesthesia**: Hospital or accredited day surgery facility; appropriate for complex surgical cases, significant anxiety, or extensive procedures - **Hospital-Based Anaesthesia Management**: OMS practitioners possess medical degrees enabling direct management of anaesthetic protocols **Surgical Instrumentation and Fixation** - **Titanium Plates and Screws**: Low-profile fixation devices that remain permanently in place; do not trigger metal detectors; do not require removal in most patients - **Surgical Guides**: Custom-printed templates for precise drill guidance with sub-millimeter accuracy - **Surgical Wafers**: Occlusal guides used as intraoperative references for accurate jaw repositioning - **Occlusal Wafers**: Serve as bite guides to position jaw segments to pre-planned positions during orthognathic surgery - **Barrier Membranes**: Used in guided bone regeneration procedures to direct new bone formation - **Titanium Mesh**: Used for orbital floor reconstruction --- **Multidisciplinary Collaboration and Coordination** **Collaborative Relationships at Collins Street Specialist Centre** **With Orthodontics** - Co-planning of orthognathic (corrective jaw) surgery cases - Pre-surgical orthodontic preparation (12–18 months) to align teeth before jaw repositioning - Post-surgical orthodontic finishing (6–12 months) to refine occlusion after surgery - Digital surgical simulation coordinated between OMS and orthodontic teams - Unified treatment planning within single location - Compatibility with various orthodontic protocols (braces, lingual appliances, clear aligners such as Invisalign) **With Periodontology** - Collaboration on complex implant cases requiring significant bone grafting - Sinus lift procedures for upper jaw implant placement - Soft tissue grafting around implant sites - Major jaw reconstruction involving bone grafting - Coordinate long-term peri-implant health and maintenance **With Prosthodontics** - Restoration-driven planning to ensure surgical implant placement serves prosthetic outcomes - Coordination of implant-supported crowns, bridges, and full-arch dentures - Planning and execution of dental implants supporting both bridge prostheses and overdentures - Post-surgical restoration design and fabrication - Prosthetic reconstruction following tumour removal or facial trauma --- **Treatment Timeline and Recovery** **Implant Placement Timeline** - **Pre-treatment**: 3–6 month healing period following tooth extraction or site preparation - **Osseointegration Period**: 8–12 weeks in lower jaw; 12–16 weeks in upper jaw - **Total Timeline**: 4–12 months from extraction/site preparation to final restoration **Orthognathic Surgery Timeline** - **Pre-surgical Orthodontics**: 12–18 months - **Surgery**: Single hospital admission, typically 1–3 nights - **Post-surgical Orthodontics**: 6–12 months - **Full Recovery**: 18–24 months for complete soft tissue remodeling and final aesthetic result - **Swelling Resolution**: 60–70% resolves within 6 weeks; final result emerges over 12 months **Bone Graft Healing** - **Smaller Grafts**: 4–9 months for integration - **Major Augmentations**: Longer healing periods required - **Integration Confirmation**: Verified through imaging before proceeding to next treatment phase --- **Specialist Personnel and Qualifications** **Registration and Credentials** OMS practitioners at Collins Street Specialist Centre hold: - Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (FRACDS OMS) - Dual medical and dental degrees - Consultant appointments at major Melbourne teaching hospitals - Clinical experience at the intersection of dentistry and medicine **Expertise Areas** - Complex wisdom tooth extraction - Orthognathic surgery with digital and virtual surgical planning - Facial trauma reconstruction - Oral pathology diagnosis and surgical management - Paediatric maxillofacial surgery - Complex dental implant surgery with grafting - Craniofacial and cleft-related surgery - Obstructive sleep apnea surgery --- **Location and Service Delivery** **Collins Street Specialist Centre (CSSC)** — **Level 12 & Tower, Manchester Unity Building, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD** - Integrated multidisciplinary dental specialist facility - Direct access to orthodontics, periodontology, and prosthodontics within single location - Advanced diagnostic imaging and digital

planning capabilities - Hospital-accredited surgical facilities for procedures requiring general anaesthesia --- ### References - [1] oms-hub.md - [2] orthognathic-surgery.md - [3] dental-implants-oms.md - [4] facial-trauma.md - [5] wisdom-teeth.md - [6] oral-pathology.md - [10] bone-grafting-oms.md