

Dentistry

What is a Dentist?

A Dentist is an individual who practices dentistry. Dentistry is the examination, diagnosis, treatment, planning or care of conditions within the human oral cavity or its adjacent tissues and structures.

What do Dentists do?

Dentists diagnose and treat diseases, injuries and malformations of the teeth and mouth. They improve a patient's appearance by using a variety of cosmetic dental procedures, and educate on how to better care for teeth and prevent oral disease. They perform surgical procedures such as implants, tissue grafts and extractions. They also teach future dentists and oral hygienists. In addition, they perform research directed to improving oral health and developing new treatment methods. While most dentists are general practitioners, others may practice in any of nine specialty areas:

- Orthodontists,
- Oral and Maxillofacial surgeons
- Pediatric dentists
- Periodontists
- Prosthodontists
- Endodontists
- Public Health Dentists,
- Oral Pathologists, or
- Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologists.

Where do Dentists work?

Most dentists work in private practice. However, they also work in public health agencies, hospitals, the military and other settings.

Education and Preparation

Admission to Ontario's dental schools requires completion of at least two years of an accredited undergraduate degree program, as well as submission of Dental Aptitude Test scores.

Professional Associations

Ontario Dental Association
<http://www.oda.on.ca/>
Canadian Dental Association
<http://www.cda-adc.ca/>

Licensure

Dentists must be licensed to practice dentistry in Canada. Each province/territory has a dental regulatory authority/licensing body that establishes regulations and requirements for the licensure of general practitioners within their jurisdiction. There are fees for licensure and certification in each province that may change annually.