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Evening section

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Responsive essay on Refusing Dental Radiographs

Throughout this Spring semester with dental radiology course, I have learned lots of things that I cannot list all. Starting from component of x-ray, how to take radiograph, how to read radiograph, and types of abnormality that will be shown on the radiograph. As we, students, learn more in depth about radiograph, we realize the importance about radiograph when it comes to diagnose. Personally, I felt the importance of radiograph when we learned about the Common Developmental Abnormalities. I was shocked that there are many abnormalities that I will not be able to visually detect as it was my first time knowing all these abnormalities.

In the future when I work as a dental hygienist, I truly believe that all the happenings and scenarios that professors tell us will happen to me one day. Especially, patients that refuses to take x-rays. I thought that the informed refusal singed form would be effective when patient sue the office until Dianne stated that the informed refusal forms do not protect any clinician against malpractice claims. That is why she said sometimes doctors feel that it is best to terminate the patient relationship when he or she continuously refuses to take x-ray. If my patient refuses to take x-ray, I will definitely briefly tell the patient the importance of radiograph and try my best to persuade the patient in the way how the doctor in the article performed; he covered his eyes with handkerchief to demonstrate examining without radiograph is same thing as examining blindfolded. This was a brilliant idea that he perfectly expressed and delivered his thought to the patient with a sense of humor at the same time. If patient still refuses to take x-ray, then I will negotiate with the patient that I will take less counts of radiographs. Like Donnie said in the article, informed refusal form should be placed as the last and final option for the treatment.

This article also reinforced me the idea of building good relationship and trust between patient is one of the keys to make the patients to comply with the treatment. This will be my daily task in the future, since having good relation and trust does not automatically form, it takes time and effort.