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Response:

Importance of Preclinical skills in Dentistry

The success of a competency-based dental curriculum would greatly depend on students acquiring the necessary basic skills in order to practice dentistry safely and with greater confidence. Practical learning and teaching begins in the pre-clinical simulation laboratory (PCSL), where students are equipped with an appropriate level of skill to apply when treating patients. SDCRI equipped with Preclinical Prosthetic Lab, Preclinical Conservative Lab and Preclinical Orthodontic Lab for seeding clinical skills in dental graduates before exposing themselves to the clinical set ups. Being a pre-clinical course, it represents the first time that dental students are exposed to fixed-prosthodontics, Orthodontic and Endodontic treatment modalities within the undergraduate dental degree program. Embracing supplementary methods would better facilitate student learning and result in improved learning outcomes. All Preclinical Labs are sustained with latest equipment and instruments. This global paradigm shift in higher education is equally applicable to the Pre-Clinical Skill Labs, in which new skills are acquired based on a sound theoretical understanding and the application of that knowledge. Within the Pre-Clinical Skill Labs, students are afforded the opportunity of putting theory into practice. Educators are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that all students develop a suitable level of understanding and dexterity to successfully be able to apply when treating patients in the dental clinic. Given the high technological specificity and demands of the Pre-Clinical Skill Labs, the inherent financial implications of establishing and maintaining such a simulation laboratory pose real challenge for dental faculty in their pursuit of practical and pre-clinical dental education excellence. Pre-Clinical Dental Skills provides a comprehensive and accessible guide to the basic operative skills and core clinical skills required of those who are about to embark on dental clinical training. It serves as the perfect illustrated introduction for pre-clinical students and a handy revision guide for subsequent undergraduate and postgraduate stages. SDCRI faculty regularly updates them with knowledge and learning processes related to pre-clinical skills. Implication of newer learning processes like demo with aid of ICT facilities and incorporating artificial intelligence in pre-clinical set up are upgrading dental graduates knowledge and skills.


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