



THEMATIC AREA - ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Thematic Area

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Thematic Description

Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery is a surgical specialty concerned with the diagnosis, surgery and adjunctive treatment of diseases, injuries and defects involving of the head, neck, jaws, face, and the mouth. Depending upon the jurisdiction, maxillofacial surgeons may require training in both dentistry and general medicine. Training and qualification in medicine may also be undertaken optionally even if not required. However, Oral and maxillofacial surgery is universally recognised as one of the specialties of dentistry and all oral and maxillofacial surgeons must obtain a university degree in dentistry before beginning residency training in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Where double qualification is not mandatory, a significant number of oral and maxillofacial surgeons choose to have specialist training after completion of their dental degree and do not go on to get a medical degree. This does not seem to limit their scope of practice.

After completion of their basic training in Oral and maxillofacial surgery students may choose to undergo further training in a 1 or 2 year subspecialty Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Fellowship Training in the following areas:

- Head and neck cancer – microvascular reconstruction
- Cosmetic facial surgery
- Craniofacial surgery/Pediatric Maxillofacial surgery/Cleft Surgery
- Cranio-maxillofacial trauma
- Head and neck reconstruction (plastic surgery of the head and neck region)
- Maxillofacial regeneration (reformation of the facial region by advanced stem cell technique)

The division of Oral and maxillofacial surgery is committed to providing the best training in the discipline as well as providing the highest quality of care to patients in both an ambulatory and inpatient setting. To this end, the division has assembled a faculty with diverse interests and expertise in the broad scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery. The division receives national and international referrals from practitioners and former patients.

Head of Thematic Area

[**PROF. J. F. ONYANGO**](#) [1]

Staff

[**PROF. S. W. GUTHUA**](#) [2]

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[**DR. T. M. OSUNDWA**](#) [6]



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Career Opportunities Currently there are less than 20 oral and maxillofacial surgeons in the country. Therefore, there are great opportunities for one wishing to specialize in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Employment opportunities exist within the major hospitals, dental schools, and in the armed forces medical services. Alternatively specialists can open their own private consultancies

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