**Study Guide for The Permanent Canines**

**Let’s Begin**

Canine teeth are very important teeth in both humans and animals. In animals, it’s a tool for survival. These are strong teeth capable of ripping through the flesh of their prey. In humans, canines are strong enough to function as a protective mechanism for the posterior teeth.

In this module, you will learn about the functions and the different characteristics of the maxillary and mandibular canines. At the end of this module, you should be able to identify and differentiate the canines from the other teeth in the oral cavity.

**Read/Watch**

Go through the attached powerpoint presentation. Make sure you have read it before the scheduled synchronous session so you can participate. The session will be recorded and posted on VLE for the benefit of those who cannot attend the live session. You are, however, highly encouraged to attend if your connectivity allows.

Other reading resources:

* “Chapter 8.” *Wheeler's Dental Anatomy, Physiology, and Occlusion*, by Stanley J. Nelson, 10th ed., Elsevier Saunders, 2015, pp. 121-134.

**Think**

After studying all the anterior teeth, did you notice any similarities between them?

Post your answers in this discussion link.

**Dig Deeper**

Try this exercise at home.

Get all your canine teeth models and gather them all in your palm or in a container. Mix them all together and then try to identify them one by one. How will you go about it? Try these steps:

1. Classify the maxillary vs the mandibular canine. If the tooth is maxillary, lay them down with the root pointing up. If the tooth is mandibular, lay them down with the root pointing down.
2. Then go about it according to arch. Determine the labial surface so you’re looking at it as if in a person’s mouth. Review the different features of canine.
3. Identify the mesial surface while you’re looking at it from the labial. Remember that the mesial surface is the surface that is nearer the midline. Once you’ve identified it, position the model as if you have an imaginary midline. Never rely on just one characteristic or feature so you won’t be confused. Also, focus your attention to the crown features rather than the root. Remember, on a patient, for you to identify a tooth in the oral cavity, you’ll only see the crown most of the time.

Let me know how you fared with this activity. Considering this is your second time to do this exercise, was it easier or harder? You can also try mixing together all your anterior teeth and identify them one-by-one if you’re up for the challenge.

If you have any difficulty or questions, please do not hesitate to send me a private message on VLE or email. Have fun!