Instruments and Principles for Instrumentation
The Professional Dental Hygienist

• The dental hygienist is a licensed primary healthcare professional, oral health educator, and clinician who provides preventive, educational and therapeutic services supporting total health for the control of oral diseases and the promotion of oral health

• Dental Hygiene Care
  • All integrated preventive and treatment services administered to a patient by a dental hygienist.

• “The greatest service a dental hygienist can perform is the persistent education of the public in mouth hygiene…”
  • Dr. Alfred C. Fones, the “father of dental hygiene”
Parts of the dental instrument

• **Working End**
  • The working end refers to that part used to carry out the purpose and function of the instrument.
  • Each working end is unique to the particular instrument. The working end of a scaler or curet is called a blade.

• **Shank**
  • The shank connects the working end with the handle
  • The section of the shank adjacent to the blade is called the lower or terminal shank

• **Handle**
  • Where grasp is placed
Instrument Grasp: Modified Pen Grasp

• The modified pen grasp is a three-finger grasp with specific target points of the thumb, index finger, and middle (second) finger all in contact with the instrument.
  • Thumb: the center of the upper aspect of the pad.
    • Holds the instrument with the index finger
  • Index finger: the center of the upper aspect of the pad.
    • Holds the instrument with the thumb
  • Middle finger: the inside upper corner of the pad, behind the upper corner of the nail.
    • Essential to instrument control to prevent the instrument from slipping during adaptation and activation and to optimize application of lateral pressure.
Fulcrum: Finger Rest

• Ring finger: Fulcrum
  • The support, or point of finger rest on the tooth surface, on which the hand turns in moving an instrument.
    • Used to stabilize and secure the instrument
    • Allows the whole hand to move as a unit
    • Helps to prevent injury to the tissue due to uncontrolled finger movement

• The fulcrum will always be in constant contact with the occlusal or incisal edges of the teeth

**Little finger has no role in the grasp, rests besides the fulcrum."
Modified Pen Grasp