

Ask the Dentists June 2014

Dear Dr. Winter, when people are searching for a dentist what are the things we should look for?

I think that being a professional brings with it a responsibility for a doctor to seek out and take quality continuing education. As a member of the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Academy of General Dentistry we try and bring quality continuing education to all the doctors in Wisconsin. I believe life long learning should be every dentist's goal. The doctor should find their passion points and take education to become proficient in those aspects of their profession. One of the topics I lecture to other dentists on is "General Dentistry As A Specialty." This highlights the fact that any aspect of general dentistry can be learned at higher levels. An example of this is the extra training our Dental organizations offer. There is the Academy of General Dentistry that offers education in the 12 subspecialties of dentistry and offers an examination called a Fellowship exam after taking 600 hours of education. This rigorous examination and an additional 400 hours of participation courses allow a doctor to attain Mastership in the AGD. The quest for Mastership allowed me to learn more in depth techniques and attain a higher level of proficiency in all aspects of dentistry.

I recently took parts one and two of a National Board examination called the ABOI/ID, which is the American Board of Oral Implantologists/Implant Dentists. This was a two day examination with part 1 being an 8 hour written examination and part 2 being defense of cases that were presented from a pool of cases I submitted and cases the Board presented.

There were two doctors at each station questioning me on everything from surgical techniques, emergency situations, prosthetics (crown and bridge implant techniques) and how to handle complications. Attaining these credentials allows a dentist to achieve personal satisfaction, professional satisfaction and fuels the desire to continue to get better at their profession.

The International Congress of Oral Implantologists is another organization as is the American Academy of Implant Dentists. These organizations offer courses, tests, oral examinations that allow dentists to document their cases, improve their skills and allow them to sit for exams such as the ABOI/ID.

The AACD or American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry also offers tests and an oral examination process to test dentists in the field of advanced cosmetics.

So while there are wonderful specialists such as orthodontists, oral surgeons, etc. it is still incumbent on generalists to continue to learn and improve their skills and work toward perfecting the art and science of dentistry.

Please visit our new website at www.hamptondentalassociates.com Winterdental.com also works, so you can read our publications and view our videos.

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Winter Dental Associates, Milwaukee, WI

We offer complimentary implant, mini-implant consultations as well as advanced cosmetic or reconstructive consultations for our readers.

Please call us at 414-464-9021 to schedule your visit! We look forward to meeting you

Yours for great dental health,

Dr. Richard Winter MAGD, DICOI, DABOI/ID

Master Academy of General Dentistry

Diplomate International Congress of Oral Implantologists

Diplomate American Board of Oral Implantologists

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