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Simulated Portfolio: An Adjunct to Pre-clinical Operative Dentistry Curricula

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Operative Dentistry is the art and science of the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of defects of teeth which does not require full coverage for restoration. Traditionally dental simulators are used in teaching pre-clinical operative dentistry whereby technical skills are developed by repetitive exercises. The teaching learning methodology employed at the University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) consists of lectures and simulation exercises. Students' knowledge and practical ability are tested during mini tests and competency tests. Recently, simulation portfolio was included as part of the Operative Dentistry Simulation Curricula. The aims of the portfolio are to encourage self evaluation and critical thinking. In these portfolios, students must include pictures of the exercise tooth - prior to cavity preparation, at the completion of cavity preparation and after restoration. Students should then identify important features of their cavity preparation or restoration, its purpose and the supporting literature. In addition students must note down new skills that they have required of their learning experience and lastly determine if their product has met the requirements.

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