

# THE ROLE OF THE DENTAL THERAPIST

By Vaishali Wanarase and Jade Jessop



**At The Maltings Dental Practice, high-quality patient care is built on teamwork. A key part of that team approach is the integration of our dental therapists, Jade and Vaishali, whose skills strengthen both the clinical and preventive services we provide every day.**

A dental therapist is a trained oral health care professional who provides preventive and restorative treatments, their scope of practice includes examinations, fillings, children's extractions, fissure sealants, and periodontal care. They are regulated like a dentist, by the General Dental Council, ensuring rigorous standards of education, competence and patient safety. They work collaboratively with dentists to enhance the overall quality and accessibility of care. It may be that the dentist refers a patient for treatment to be completed by Jade or Vaishali, or indeed they may see Jade or Vaishali for the whole course of treatment.

For The Maltings Dental Practice, the use of a dental therapist strengthens the practice's ability to provide timely appointments and comprehensive care. By delegating routine restorative and preventive treatments appropriately, dentists can focus on complex procedures such as advanced restorative work, cosmetic treatments and long-term treatment planning.



This structure helps to reduce patient waiting times, enhances skillset within the team and improves the workflow.

Importantly, The Maltings Dental Practice has a commitment to prevention in dentistry and dental therapy closely aligns with this approach. Jade and Vaishali support patients in maintaining their oral healthcare for the long-term, through patient education and preventative care, helping patients understand how to protect their teeth and gums. This reinforces its commitment to being proactive rather than reactive care.

Dental therapists are a safe and valuable part of the dental workforce. When appropriately integrated, they expand access to care without compromising standards, allowing the team to work cohesively. Using dental therapists at The Maltings, strengthens its capacity to serve the community effectively.

The Maltings
Dental Practice

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