**Assignment 1:3- Definitions**

The purpose of this assignment is to write three definitions of a term related to one’s field of study- parenthetical, sentence, and expanded, for a non-technical audience. The objective is to understand how different readers require a different form of definition, such as levels of detail and vocabulary if they are not familiar with the area of knowledge. This assignment allows the student to realize the importance of defining in technical writing.

### Calculus /ˈkalkyələs/

Parenthetical definition:

Calculus (the hardened form of dental plaque) on the tooth surfaces allows bacteria to adhere more readily, contributing to periodontal disease.

Sentence definition:

Calculus is a collection of oral microorganisms that are mineralized (or “hardened”) on the tooth surfaces from calcium and phosphate salts in the saliva. It has a chalky consistency that may become stained by food and drinks. It is also known as *tartar.*

Expanded definition:

*Origin of the word*

Calculus comes from the Latin word meaning “small pebble”.

*How does calculus form?*

Calculus forms from oral plaque biofilm. Biofilm is a complex arrangement of microorganisms that thrive in moist, nutrient-rich environments. When plaque biofilm is not sufficiently removed from the oral cavity, the minerals in the saliva will calcify the deposit onto the tooth surfaces. Once this material forms, it is too tenacious to be removed with a toothbrush. A dentist or dental hygienist is qualified to remove the build-up using dental instruments.

*Why should calculus be removed?*

Calculus has a rough, uneven consistency allowing bacteria to thrive in the microscopic divots. It can form both above and below the gumline, causing irritation to the tissues. If left untreated, this hard deposit can cause the gum tissue to recede, exposing the root surfaces of the teeth. Exposure of tooth roots can cause sensitivity for the individual, as they are not coated in a dense enamel layer. Blood flow to the gum tissues can also be partially inhibited if the calculus masses are large. Ultimately, dental calculus is a causative factor in periodontal infection.

Figure 1:



Calculus (“tartar”)

Source: https://images.search.yahoo.com/images/view

Works Cited:

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