

# Show-Tell-Ask™ Diagnosis Examples

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Diagnosed Condition	What to Show	Consequences	Consequences	What to Ask
<i>Periodontal Disease</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stages of Periodontal Disease chart.</li> <li>• Mirror of their bleeding gums when probed.</li> <li>• Their pictures of recessed gums, buildup.</li> <li>• X-rays of recession.</li> <li>• Have patient hold a mirror while you probe infected area.</li> </ul>	<p>You have an active infection underneath your gum line. The infection is bad bacteria eating away at your gum and bone support. When the bad bacteria eat, they also excrete waste. The waste contains acid. The acid is what is eating away at your gum and bone support. These bad bacteria produce waste in your mouth and causes bad breath.</p>	<p>Gum infection is causing inflammation in your body. Your body is always fighting this infection. Antibiotics cannot heal infection in your jaw. This inflammation is leaking plaque into your artery and this contributes to heart attack and strokes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does that bother you?</li> <li>• Does it bother you that you have an active infection below your gum line?</li> <li>• What do you think will happen if it does not get treated?</li> <li>• Does that bother you?</li> <li>• What do you think about that?</li> </ul>
<i>Cavities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photos or X-rays of affected teeth.</li> <li>• Run scalar over teeth.</li> <li>• Diagnodent Carries detector or similar device.</li> </ul>	<p>Tooth decay is eating away at your enamel. If this goes untreated, it will eventually reach the nerve of the tooth. When it reaches the nerve of the tooth it will become infected. When your tooth becomes infected you will need a root canal to save the tooth. Then the tooth will be dead, so you will need to crown the tooth. That procedure is about 10 times the cost of a filling.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does that bother you that you have cavities?</li> <li>• How do you feel about the cavities?</li> <li>• What do you think will happen if you do not get them fixed?</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<i>Chronic Abscess</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• X-ray of infection.</li> <li>• Compare area that is infected with other areas that are not infected in the patient's mouth.</li> <li>• Picture of infected tooth with puss coming out.</li> </ul>	<p>The active infection is at the base your tooth. You cannot feel the infection right now but it is t building up puss that is eating away at your bone support. Your body is working overtime to fight that infection. It is not a question of if it will become painful and acute; it is a question of when. Usually, when you are stressed or your immune system is down, it will start to hurt. If you have not had tooth ache before, you are lucky.</p>	<p>What happens if the infection continues to be inflamed and build up puss, it will spread to adjacent teeth. When the puss pressure is too great it makes a release valve. If it has no place to drain or the pressure builds up too much, it will crack the tooth. If the tooth cracks vertically, it cannot be repaired and the tooth cannot be saved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does it bother you the tooth is infected?</li> <li>• What do you think will happen if it does not get treated?</li> <li>• How do you feel about having an active infection?</li> </ul>

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<i>Acute Abscess</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X-ray of infection. Picture of infected tooth will puss coming out.</li> </ul>	Do you see the infection at the base of your tooth? The puss is eating away at the supporting tooth structure. That is what is causing the pain. Antibiotics will not heal infection in the jawbone; it will calm it down so that you can be numbed for the procedure.	If not treated, the acute pain will return, while your bone continues to erode and it is seeding your blood stream with plaque. The infection will also spread to other teeth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do you think about that?</li> <li>I know the pain is uncomfortable but does it bother you that you have an active infection?</li> <li>What do you think will happen if it goes untreated?</li> </ul>
<i>Missing tooth</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have patient hold up hand mirror and smile to show where tooth is missing.</li> <li>Show picture of patient smiling with missing tooth.</li> <li>Ideal Panoramic X-ray of patient's mouth.</li> </ul>	You can see here that your bone is eroding away. This is because there is no tooth root to keep it in place. Your teeth are shifting. This causes your bite to be misaligned creating stress on other teeth. Your teeth are beginning to wear and could become infected and or crack. It also makes it more difficult to chew your food.	When you send food to your stomach without chewing it properly, your stomach produces excess stomach acid. This can cause acid reflux.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can see if they are bothered by this when you are going over the x-rays and pictures</li> <li>What do you think?</li> <li>Does that space bother you?</li> </ul>
<i>Cracked Tooth/Deep decay</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Show picture of cracks or decayed as big as possible.</li> <li>Show x-ray of area.</li> </ul>	Do you see the crack/ discoloration here? This is close to the nerve. If this gets infected, or cracks while chewing on something hard,	I may not be able to repair it then it will need to be extracted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do you think about that?</li> <li>Does that crack in your tooth bother you?</li> </ul>
<i>Multiple missing decayed or cracked teeth.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Show full smile picture, Panoramic X-ray.</li> <li>Also show bone loss, shifting teeth.</li> </ul>	<p>Conversation will vary based on pre- consult interview. Is patient aware of conditions? If yes, Ask: What bothers you about your dental condition? Or similar question.</p> <p>If not aware of the situation or they only want to fix one tooth that hurts or a front tooth, you can tell the following:</p>	You can see here that your bone is eroding away. This is because there is no tooth root to keep it in place. Your teeth are shifting. This causes your bite to be misaligned creating stress on other teeth. Your teeth are beginning to wear and could become infected and or crack. It also makes it more difficult to chew your food.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can see if they are bothered by this when you are going over the x-rays and pictures.</li> <li>If you are not getting a reaction, ask them:</li> <li>What do you think?</li> <li>Do your missing teeth bother you?</li> </ul>