

DECISION 3

Dr. Steven Zheng
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Ottawa, Ontario

ALLEGATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

- Contravened a standard of practice or failed to maintain the standards of practice of the profession (para. 1).
- Treated a patient without consent (para. 7).

BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

- Patient was referred to this member, who is a general dentist, for extraction of two lower molars as the referring dentist had identified a potential risk to the inferior alveolar nerve.
- The member confirmed that he had sufficient expertise to perform the molar extraction and advised the patient that the procedure would be straightforward.
- He proceeded with surgery without patient consultation and without taking a medical history, having given the patient .25mg Triazolam to be taken one hour prior to surgery.
- During surgery, the anesthetic wore off and member continued with surgery.
- Subsequent to surgery, patient suffered bleeding, intense pain and lost feeling in lower lip and chin.
- At a post-operative appointment, he advised the patient for the first time that she may not regain feeling in her lip and chin.
- Patient's family doctor suggested that she be referred to a neurologist and the member made the referral.

- The member did not perform any further post-operative care nor did he follow-up with the neurologist.
- A subsequent examination of the patient by an oral surgeon revealed the following:
 - tooth 4.8 had an apical third/tip of a root superimposed over right IAN canal;
 - tooth 3.8 had the vast majority of the root structure still present in the socket;
 - marked reduction in A-Beta, A-Delta and C-fiber function in right and left IAN/V-3 distribution;
 - the two molars represented difficult extractions with greater than average risk of post-operative IAN neurosurgery deficit following their surgical removal;
 - there appeared to be nine months without any post-operative patient management.

DECISION

1. Finding

- The member pleaded guilty and was found guilty with respect to the above allegations.

2. Penalty

- Reprimand
- Suspension of certificate of registration for three consecutive months (January 18, 2011 – April 17, 2011)
- Course in oral surgery; particularly the extraction of wisdom teeth

- Must only perform extractions of wisdom teeth and/or any teeth with soft or hard tissue impactions under the supervision of a mentor until successful completion of mentoring program
- Practice to be monitored for 24 months following completion of mentoring program

3. Costs/Publication

- Costs to the College in the amount of \$3,500
- Monitoring costs of \$600 per visit
- Pursuant to the legislation, publication of this matter includes the member's name and address.

Panel's Reasoning

- Penalty was a joint submission resulting from a pre-hearing conference.
- Member cooperated fully with the College in this matter and this was his first appearance before the Discipline Committee.
- Reprimand and significant period of suspension serve as a specific deterrence to the member, while publication serves as both a specific deterrence to the member and general deterrence to the membership.
- Member will be rehabilitated through completion of the course, monitoring of his practice and mentoring program.
- Penalty protects the public interest.