
Discipline Summary

Dr. Christopher Tsang
520 Industrial Parkway S #300
Aurora, Ontario

Hearing Date: October 25, 2019

Allegations of professional misconduct

Notice of Hearing #1

- Treated without consent
- Failed to keep records as required
- Gave information about a patient without consent
- Contravened a standard of practice or failed to maintain the standards of practice of the profession

Notice of Hearing #2

- Engaged in disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unethical conduct

Synopsis

Notice of Hearing #1

- This matter arose as a result of a patient complaint.
- With respect to this patient, a senior citizen, Dr. Tsang performed a complex procedure for 11 hours without breaks or offering sedation. This was done despite the patient's history of mini-strokes, the ineffectiveness of the local anesthesia, and the patient feeling nervous.
- Dr. Tsang admitted that, with respect to this patient, his treatment planning was deficient and he failed to meet certain standards of practice of the profession. Specifically, that he failed to:
 - Establish and document the prognosis and diagnosis for certain teeth.
 - Obtain the patient's informed consent to treatment. Dr. Tsang's treatment planned involved four implants, but, in fact, he placed five implants and extracted a tooth that the treatment plan set out to be retained. He also referenced the use of certain materials, but used others and did not revise his treatment plan.
 - Prepare a report for the interpretation of a scan (SICAT), which aids in prognosis and treatment planning.

- Dr. Tsang failed to keep records as required of the following:
 - The date, number of implants planned and prosthesis planned for the CT scan referral;
 - The diagnosis or prognosis for any or all of the patient's lower teeth;
 - Documentation to and from the manufacturer of the dental laboratory system, including photos and radiographs of the patient and treatment planning discussions with staff of the manufacturer.
- Dr. Tsang also admitted that he did not have the patient's consent to give information about and distribute photographs of the patient to third parties, including another dentist and a representative of the company that manufactures the implants.

Notice of Hearing #2

- This matter arose as a result of a Registrar's investigation.
- In 2014, a panel of the College's Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee required Dr. Tsang to complete a Specified Continuing Education or Remediation Program (SCERP) in prosthodontics and implants. Dr. Tsang was specifically required to complete a course in prosthodontics, obtain a mentor for multi-implant procedures who would report to the College, abide by all recommendations of his mentor. This was followed by practice monitoring.
- Dr. Tsang discussed a possible treatment plan with his mentor or the patient whose treatment was the subject of Notice of Hearing #1. However, Dr. Tsang did not follow the mentor's recommendations to obtain a comprehensive wax set up with radiographic guide and CBCT imaging, nor did he submit a revised treatment plan or obtain the mentor's approval to proceed with the extensive multi-implant mandibular treatment of this patient.

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- With respect to another patient, Dr. Tsang proceeded with treatment contrary to his mentor’s recommendation and contrary to the terms of the SCERP. It was the position of Dr. Tsang that he was following the wishes of the patient, but Dr. Tsang now understands he had other options rather than proceed in these circumstances.
 - Dr. Tsang acknowledges that, with regard to these two patients, he breached the terms of the SCERP by not abiding by the recommendations of his mentor, and that in doing so, engaged in conduct that would be reasonably regarded as disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unethical.

- A six-month suspension, reprimand and publication provide adequate deterrence to the dentist and to the profession at large that the College will not tolerate professional misconduct of this nature.
- The terms, conditions and limitations on Dr. Tsang’s certificate of registration will serve to protect the public by helping Dr. Tsang remediate his practice. The courses in recordkeeping, informed consent and ethics will help him gain insight and improve his practice in the future. The 24 months of practice monitoring will also protect the public.

Decision

1. Finding

The dentist pleaded guilty and was found guilty with respect to the above allegations of professional misconduct.

2. Penalty

- Reprimand
- Suspension of certificate of registration for six months (November 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020)
- Course on Informed Consent
- Course on Professional/Problem-Based Ethics
- Course on Recordkeeping
- Mentoring program in relation to multi-implant treatment
- Practice to be monitored for 24 months following completion of mentoring program

3. Costs

- Dentist to pay costs to the College in the amount of \$10,000
- Dentist to pay monitoring costs

Panel’s reasoning

- The penalty was a joint submission reached as a result of a pre-hearing conference.
- The panel concluded that the jointly proposed penalty was appropriate in all the circumstances.