Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/ Adverse Event Information

Medical Safety Information

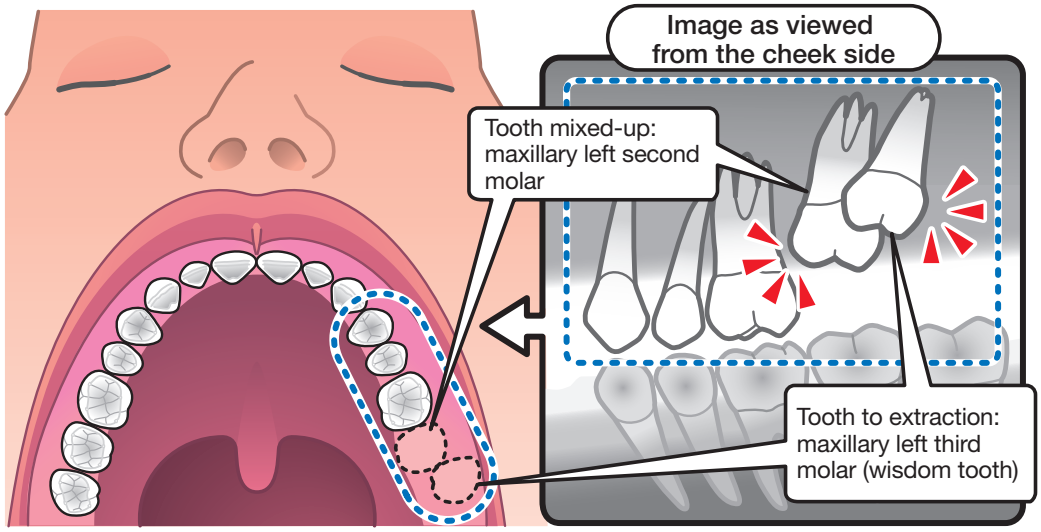
No.47, October 2010

Mix-up of the tooth extraction site

Eleven cases of mix-up of the tooth extraction site at dentistry, have been reported (information collection period: January 1, from 2007 to July 31, 2010; the information is partly included in "Medical Adverse Event Information to Be Shared" in the 15th Quarterly Report).

Cases of mix-up of the tooth extraction site have been reported.

Image of case 1



- Among the 11 reported cases, 9 were caused by location misunderstanding with a neighboring tooth site.

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Case 1

The dentist intended to extract an impacted maxillary left third molar (wisdom tooth), but mistook it with the maxillary left second molar which was impacted due to delayed tooth eruption. The dentist noticed the mistake during extraction, so restored and fixed it.

Case 2

The dentist was to perform surgery to extract the maxillary left first premolar and maxillary left second molar, but visually mistook the maxillary left second premolar as the maxillary left first premolar because the maxillary left first molar was missing. The dentist extracted the maxillary left second premolar and the maxillary left second molar.

Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred.

- **Thoroughly observe and confirm the position and the configuration of the tooth to be extracted with various imagings before extraction.**
- **Confirm the extraction site with the patient beforehand.**

* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See quarterly reports and annual reports posted on the Japan Council for Quality Health Care website for details of the Project. http://www.med-safe.jp/

* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but can not be guaranteed in the future.

* This information is neither for limiting the discretion of healthcare providers nor for imposing certain obligations or responsibilities on them.

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