

Are abnormal sensations and pains after dental treatment the dentist's fault?

Prof. Young Kyun Kim

After dental treatment, you often experience nerve damage or unexplained pain that persists. Pain that has caused direct damage or has an obvious cause needs to be addressed quickly. Despite “unknown cause” or “certainly not the dentist’s fault”, it should not be possible to take full responsibility for failing to explain to patients, guardians, and lawyers and react appropriately. If a problem occurs due to a serious mistake, the medical staff should take full responsibility.

There are many treatments and surgeries that cause nerve damage, such as extraction of impacted teeth, local anesthesia, orthognathic surgery, implant surgery, root canal treatment, intraoral bone collection, fracture, infection, and surgical drugs. However, neurological symptoms of unknown cause also occur very often. Therefore, advance explanation related to nerve damage is very important, and if abnormal sensations occur after treatment, you must have the ability to explain the cause, countermeasures, and prognosis well.

Pain is one of the biggest challenges dentists face. Most of the patients who visit the dentist complain of pain in the teeth, gums, and tissues around the mouth. Perhaps many dentists are familiar with and can confidently treat pain of tooth and periodontal origin. However, in many cases, the cause of the pain actually complained by patients in the clinic is unclear or the relationship with dental disease is not found. There are many cases. At this time, if the patient is driven to be mentally ill or malingering, or if the pain of unknown cause is not adequately explained and dealt with inappropriately, the patient will have no choice but to think that the pain is caused by incorrect dental treatment. Therefore, it is necessary for dentists to develop the ability to carry out appropriate diagnosis and treatment through a comprehensive understanding of various pains in the oral and facial areas.

Profile

- * Seoul National University, College of Dentistry. D.D.S.
- * Full-time Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, College of Dentistry, Chosun University
- * Chairman, Dept. of Oral and Maxillary Surgery, Section of Dentistry, Bundang Jesaeng General Hospital, Daejin Medical Center
- * Now: Professor, Chairman, Dept. of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Section of Dentistry, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital
- * Now: Member, National Academy of Medicine of Korea