

Dentist removes 526 teeth from 7-year-old

5th August, 2019



A dentist in Chennai, India has removed 526 miniature teeth from the mouth of a seven-year-old boy. The boy complained to his mother that he had toothaches. She took the boy to a dentist, who found the boy had hundreds of tiny

teeth in a sac (a small, empty space) inside the boy's jaw. The sac was near the molar area at the back of the jaw. Professor Pratibha Ramani, the head of a dental department at the hospital, spoke to reporters about the surgery the little boy had. She told reporters: "The teeth were of variable sizes that ranged from the smallest at 0.1mm to the largest at 3mm. They all had a small crown, enamel and a small root." She said the boy suffered from a very rare dental problem.

The operation to remove the tiny teeth from the boy's jaw took over five hours. Professor Ramani spoke about how her team of surgeons removed the teeth. She said: "We had to drill down into the top of the lower jaw, make a window and remove the sac." She added: "As the sac was going deeper into the tissue, the size of the teeth was becoming very small." Despite having over 500 teeth in his jaw, the boy did not suffer a lot of pain. Ms Ramani said: "We had to take a lot of counseling sessions with him for him to undergo surgery. We have a very good counseling team who have expertise in dealing with kids." The boy now has 21 teeth. He is doing well and is no longer in pain.

Sources: theguardian.com / npr.org / maravipost.com

Writing

Teeth are unnecessary. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

dentist / teeth / complained / toothache / jaw / hospital / surgery / reporters / rare / operation / surgeons / drill / tissue / pain / counseling / expertise / team / suffer

True / False

- a) The teeth the dentist removed were fully grown. T / F
- b) The boy did not have any toothaches despite having hundreds of teeth. T / F
- c) The smallest teeth were just 0.1mm in size. T / F
- d) The boy suffered from a very rare dental problem. T / F
- e) The operation to remove the teeth took over five hours. T / F
- f) Dentists drilled into the bottom of the top jaw to remove the teeth. T / F
- g) The boy did not suffer a lot of pain. T / F
- h) The boy had counseling before the operation to remove his teeth. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. removed | a. skill |
| 2. miniature | b. uncommon |
| 3. head | c. leader |
| 4. variable | d. experience |
| 5. rare | e. tiny |
| 6. operation | f. suffering |
| 7. sessions | g. extracted |
| 8. undergo | h. meetings |
| 9. expertise | i. changing |
| 10. pain | j. surgery |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of dentists?
- b) How much do you like your teeth?
- c) What do you do when you get a toothache?
- d) What do you think of the job of a dentist?
- e) What happened the last time you went to a dentist?
- f) How would you like to change your teeth?
- g) What three adjectives best describe this story?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the dentist?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. The boy complained to his mother that | a. team |
| 2. inside the boy's | b. sizes |
| 3. the head of a dental department | c. the tiny teeth |
| 4. The teeth were of variable | d. longer in pain |
| 5. the boy suffered from a very | e. at the hospital |
| 6. The operation to remove | f. he had toothaches |
| 7. going deeper into | g. with kids |
| 8. We have a very good counseling | h. rare dental problem |
| 9. expertise in dealing | i. jaw |
| 10. He is doing well and is no | j. the tissue |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of teeth?
- What should we do to care for our teeth?
- How bad are toothaches?
- How can we make dentists less scary for children?
- How important is a perfect smile?
- What advice do you have for the little boy?
- What questions would you like to ask the boy?

Spelling

- 526 intureaim teeth
- The boy plncmieoad to his mother
- a small, pymte space
- the sryuerg the little boy had
- The teeth were of ialavrbe sizes
- a very rare lnadte problem
- The nooriepta to remove the tiny teeth
- ensurog removed the teeth
- going deeper into the sitesu
- estpide having over 500 teeth
- take a lot of counseling issonsse
- expiesetr in dealing with kids

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. c	4. i	5. b
6. j	7. h	8. d	9. a	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Flossing

You think flossing is the best thing about the dentist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of of these (and why): check-ups, tooth whitening or going home.

Role B – Check-ups

You think check-ups are the best thing about the dentist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of of these (and why): flossing, tooth whitening or going home.

Role C – Tooth Whitening

You think tooth whitening is the best thing about the dentist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of of these (and why): check-ups, flossing or going home.

Role D – Going home

You think going home is the best thing about the dentist. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of of these (and why): check-ups, tooth whitening or flossing.

Speaking – At the dentist

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| • check-ups | • flossing |
| • x-ray | • fillings |
| • crowns | • extractions |
| • root canals | • tooth whitening |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.