



The Tooth, The Whole Tooth and Nothing But The Tooth

“Safety starts with me!”

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INTRODUCTION

The team comprising of SDSAs and DSAs from Level 3, LAOT focused to explore ways to strengthen vigilance among DSAs during multiple teeth removal in operating theatre and to ensure ‘ZERO HARM’ for patients.

CURRENT INTERVENTIONS

- As the first and most important safety protocol, the team has been doing “Time-Out” to identify the correct patient prior to the tooth extraction.
- The team will verify with the surgeons on the correct procedure by viewing the site marking on the consent form before starting the procedure.
- The tooth that will be extracted will be verified with the radiograph to ensure right extractions.



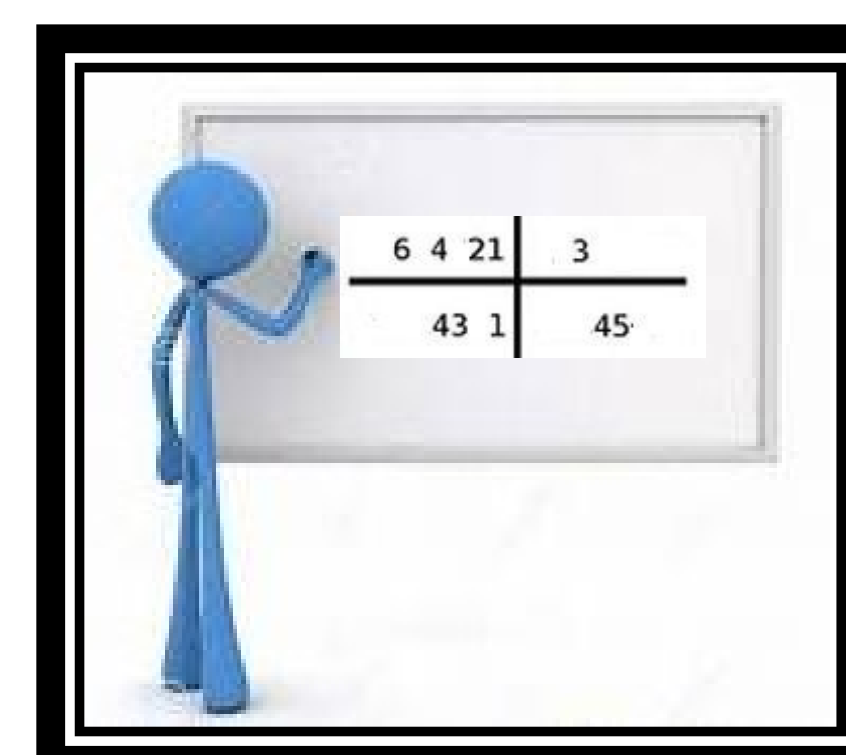
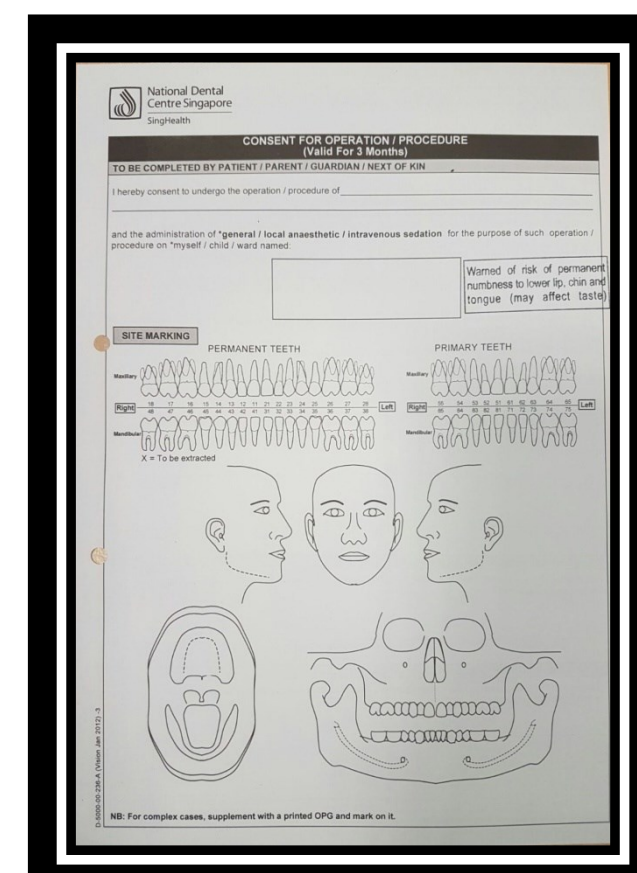
✓ Correct Patient



✓ Correct Tooth

Advantage of Palmer Notation

- With the help of Palmer Notation, the team can complement it with the consent form as the main guide for the teeth to be extracted.
- Teeth that need to be removed can be written on a blank piece of paper or whiteboard, which will be displayed on the operating panel. It is closer to the position where the extraction is performed hence it is easier for the team to see it.



87654321	12345678	EDCBA	ABCDE
87654321	12345678	EDCBA	ABCDE

Figure 1

UNDERSTANDING THE ROOT CAUSES

The team brainstormed and discovered that the current interventions are good for single tooth extraction. However, when multiple teeth extractions are needed, site marking on the consent form may not be clear for the team to view. The wordings and instructions will be too small as the consent forms are placed far from the position where the extractions are performed.

OBJECTIVES

The team aims to achieve **ZERO WRONG Tooth Identification** in LA OT.

INTERVENTIONS

The team will like to explore new interventions to strengthen the workflow and to continually improve for the benefit of the patients. ‘Palmer Notation’ is one of the intervention proposed by the team.

Palmer Notation, as shown in Figure 1 (named after Ohio dentist Dr. Corydon Palmer) is a system used by dentists to associate information to a specific tooth. Also known as the Military System. Although supposedly superseded by the FDI World Dental Federation notation, it overwhelmingly continues to be the preferred method used by orthodontists, dental students and practitioners in the United Kingdom.

It was originally termed the **Zsigmondy system** after the Hungarian dentist Adolf Zsigmondy who developed the idea in 1861, using a **Zsigmondy cross** to record quadrants of tooth positions. Adult teeth were numbered 1 to 8, and the child primary dentition (also called deciduous, milk or baby teeth) were depicted with a quadrant grid using Roman numerals I, II, III, IV, V to number the teeth from the midline. Palmer changed this to A, B, C, D, E. This makes it less confusing and less prone to errors in interpretation.

Adapted from Wikipedia