Indian dentist in US tries to extract 20 teeth at once, kills patient

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NEW YORK: The license of an Indian dentist was revoked in the US after he attempted to extract 20 teeth from the mouth of a 64-year-old woman in one sitting which led to her death.

The dentist, Dr Rashmi Patel was performing the procedure on Judith Gan on February 17 when she gurgled and lost consciousness.

The procedure included placing implants in the woman’s mouth after removing the teeth, according to the New York Daily News.

The paper quoted Patel’s assistant as saying that he had requested him to stop the procedure before calling the emergency services.

"He wanted to complete the placement of implants as the assistant begged Patel to stop working, and finally ran out and called 911, but the patient had already flat-lined," the state department of public health wrote in a report.

"The four count petition found, among an array of other misdeeds, that Patel deviated from standard of care in that he did not timely and properly respond to Gan’s oxygen desaturation and/or respiratory distress and/or cardio-pulmonary distress,” state records reported.

"Gan did not have to die to receive this dental treatment and it is because of Patel’s negligence that she died,” said a dentist who was asked to review the case for the department of health.

Patel’s license, issued in 2003, was suspended on April 21 pending a June 18 hearing in front of the state dental commission. Patel runs two clinics in Enfield and Torrington.

"Patel has been ordered to stay away from his patients after one died and another spent six days in the hospital,” state health officials said.

The horror of Gan’s botched procedure came after a December incident, when a 55-year-old man “aspirated the throat pack” and was rushed to the hospital. The victim stopped breathing and spent six days in the hospital after suffering heart and lung damage.

Patel was also sued for malpractice by a former employee in 2009 after he performed "shoddy" dental work. Doreen Jasonis won nearly $500,000 from a jury in 2011, but the ruling was appealed and eventually ended with an out-of-court settlement.

The dentist’s attorney says both clinics remain open and that Patel will fight the charges.
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The procedure included placing implants in the throat pack and finally ran he had requested him to stop the procedure. Doreen Jasonis won nearly $500,000 from a jury in 2011, but the ruling was spent six days in the hospital after suffering heart and lung damage. The victim stopped breathing and “aspirated the throat pack” and was rushed to the hospital. The state health officials said: “Patel has been ordered to stay away from his patients after one died and another spent six days in the hospital,” state health officials said.

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“Patel deviated from the standard of care in that he did not timely and properly respond to Gan’s oxygen desaturation,” the four count petition found, among an array of other misdeeds.

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The horror of Gan’s botched procedure came after a December incident, when a 55-year-old man said he was given mouthwash to cleanse the wounds before undergoing 20 implants. The patient first complained to the department of health, then took the matter to court and eventually won.

The state medical council, which has the authority to revoke a license, said Patel’s team had left the patient’s mouth open for days, allowing a secondary infection to form. This, the council said, led to the death of the patient.

“He wanted to complete the placement of implants as the assistant begged Patel to stop working, and finally ran out and called 911, but the patient had already flat-lined,” the state medical council said.

New York Daily News quoted Patel’s assistant as saying that she died. She was asked to review the case for the department of health.

“I don’t remember anymore,” Patel said, as quoted by the New York Daily News.

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“She gurgled and lost consciousness,” the state said.

Patel is also facing charges in New York of performing unnecessary surgery after 20 implants were removed from the mouth of a 65-year-old woman from the Bronx. The woman later died from the infection.

Rashmi Patel has been on probation since 2007 after being charged with multiple counts of failing to get the necessary licenses to perform dental work. Doreen Jasonis won nearly $500,000 from a jury in 2011, but the ruling was appealed and eventually ended with an out-of-court settlement.

Indian dentists in the US have been facing increased scrutiny in recent years after several cases of botched procedures and death. The American Dental Association has been working to improve the regulation of foreign-trained dentists in the US.