
Complications in Cranio-Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery

Robert Gassner
Editor

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 Springer

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*To all my inspiring local and international friends, colleagues,
companions, and great individuals on this small planet on my
academic, surgical, and personal paths who enrich my life,
especially my family*

Robert Gassner

Foreword

It is a pleasure and a honor for me to have been invited to write the introduction for the first edition of the book *Complications in Cranio-Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery* edited by Prof. Robert Gassner from Innsbruck, Austria.

In this international endeavor, Prof. Gassner's deep knowledge and great experience in the field of oral and cranio-maxillofacial surgery are reflected in a work that will fill an important space in the literature of the specialty. This book cannot be missed in the library of all those professionals who are dedicated to the study and treatment of the different areas of cranio-maxillofacial and also oral surgery.

The topic "complications" is of great importance due to its frequency and the consequences that it implies, both in terms of the impact on the patients and also the legal aspects. We appreciate the contribution of this work to the best knowledge of this aspect of oral and cranio-maxillofacial surgery, rarely systematized in such a structured way. It is really a pleasure to highlight the great international group of coauthors of recognized prestige who have contributed to make this book a reality. Throughout the book, the authors have achieved to make a very complete review of the various aspects of the topic "complications," which will contribute to an update of the reader's knowledge regarding the understanding and management of the possible complications in such important fields like the treatment of congenital or acquired deformities, facial trauma, TMJ pathology or tumors, and reconstructive surgery, among other areas. A special mention is deserved for the inclusion of very specific chapters such as complications of skull base surgery or radiation therapy; the latter written by the editor of the book itself.

Summarizing, based on the fact that a better knowledge of the complications will help to prevent and diagnose them in an early and adequate way, I am sure that this book will contribute to the best treatment of our patients. May I congratulate Robert Gassner for the initiative as well as all the prestigious authors who have participated in the edition of this new contribution to the scientific literature.

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Prologue: A Short Note on Wisdom Teeth and Related Complications

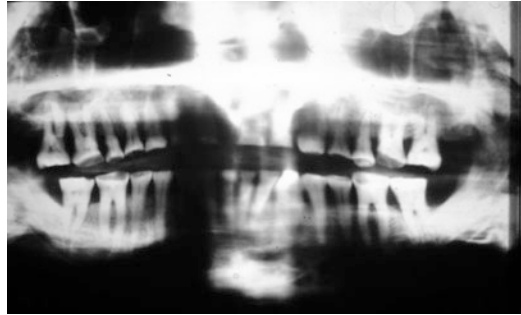


Fig. 1 Zonarc panoramic radiograph of the Iceman—September 1991. (Gassner, K: The Dentition of the Iceman. Diploma Thesis, 2018)

The Iceman ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki-oetzi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oetzi)), a 5300-year-old mummy, was found in the Tyrolean Alps in September 1991 and revealed to have a dentition of 28 teeth without wisdom teeth.

This image was taken in September 1991 when the Iceman underwent a Zonarc Panoramic Radiograph at the University Hospital of Innsbruck, Tyrol, Austria, which allowed the examination of patients in a supine position.

Regarding the field of dentistry and medicine, especially oral surgery but also craniomaxillofacial surgery, one of the stunning findings of the radiograph revealed that the iceman did not have wisdom teeth.

Until today, wisdom tooth removal may pose tremendous life-lasting consequences due to their position in the jaw. Therefore, while at the dental office adolescents should be evaluated whether wisdom teeth develop correctly and whether there is enough space for them before they harm neighboring teeth, interfere with their roots, or the infra-alveolar nerve.

There is always a plethora of general risks due to wisdom tooth removal such as pain, swelling, bleeding, inhibition of swallowing, limited mouth opening, mild fever, changes of blood pressure or heart rate, and side effects affecting nervous system (anxiety, seizures, breathing). Wisdom teeth themselves may develop pain, tooth decay, cysts, damage of neighboring roots, pressure on dental arches, and promote inflammatory conditions with bone infections surrounding them. Finally retained wisdom tooth may inhibit the insertion of crowns or bridges on second molars, the implementation of partial or full dentures.

Special risks of wisdom tooth removal are damage of the neighboring tooth/crown, displacement of the tooth or parts of it in the soft tissue, remaining root tips, broken drill heads, oroantral communication or tuber fracture in the upper jaw, nerve damage of the intra-alveolar nerve, lingual nerve, or mandible fracture even weeks after successful wisdom tooth removal. In very rare cases, bone infections may not only develop into osteomyelitis with the leading sign of lip numbness and limited mouth opening but also into life-threatening sepsis and even death.

In conclusion, it can be stated that the presence of all these wisdom tooth-related risks put humans nowadays in a precarious situation. They are at a higher risk than the Iceman with his 28 teeth when discussing wisdom tooth-related survival.

Robert Gassner

Acknowledgments

I am thankful to Dr. Sverre Klemp from Springer who approached me in Hong Kong at the ICOMS 2017 to edit a book on *Complications in Cranio-Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery*. I hesitated but he insisted based on Springer's analysis that I know clinically active experts around the globe who will accept the invitation to prepare book chapters.

I am also thankful to Ahmad Ejaz from Springer for his advice who was extremely helpful and effective in collecting all chapters from around the globe. I am thankful to Daniela Heller from Springer. She was always there for all questions I had regarding the book project.

I am deeply thankful to all my coauthors for their great efforts and commitment to contribute to this book especially **Srinivas Gosla Reddy** from Hyderabad, India, on Complications in Cleft Lip Palate Surgery, **B J Costello** from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Complications in Craniofacial Surgery, **Suzanne McCormick** from Encinitas, California, on Complications in Distraction Surgery, **Roger Moreira** from Goiânia, Brazil, on Complications in Orthognathic Surgery, **Radhika Chigurupati** from Boston, Connecticut, on Complications of Odontogenic and Non-odontogenic Infections, **Bilal Al-Nawas** from Mainz, Germany, on Complications in Oral Implant Placement, **Tetsu Takahashi** from Tohoku, Japan, on Complications in TMJ Surgery, **Sven OTTO** from Munich, Germany, on Complications treating MRONJ, **Andreas Kolk** from Innsbruck, Austria, on Complications due to Removal of Plates and Screws, **Wilhelm Eisner** from Innsbruck, Austria, on Complications and Orofacial Pain, **Gregorio Sanchez Anicheto** from Madrid, Spain, on Complications in Skull Base Surgery, **Bernhard Frerich** from Lübeck, Germany, on Complications in Maxillofacial Cancer Resection, **Volker Scharfing** from Innsbruck, Austria, on Complications in Neck Dissection, **Christos Perisanidis** from Athens, Greece, on Complications in Free Flap Reconstruction, and their coworkers, respectively. They are all highly educated and accomplished surgeons and also scientists. It is a real privilege and pleasure to share this book authorship with all of them.

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