

Dentist back on register two years after treatment left boy brain damaged

4th November 2008

A dentist struck off after his treatment left a six-year-old boy with permanent brain damage has been restored to the Dentists Register.

Whilst under the care of Michael Ellis Jones, the child was left brain damaged by 'unjustified' doses of drugs, including ketamine, through a routine procedure to remove six teeth in August 2004.

Mr Jones was subsequently erased from the Register in October 2006 when the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) found he'd failed to:

- rehearse emergency procedures
- ensure the patient's parents had received appropriate written pre- and post-operative instructions
- give them an adequate explanation of the conscious sedation technique proposed
- ensure they had given informed consent to the treatment proposed
- ensure that the sedationist accepted the principle of minimum intervention.

Mr Jones applied for restoration to the Dentists Register in September this year and the Committee restored his name to the list, dependent on compliance with a number of conditions to remain in place for three years.

In coming to the decision, the GDC disciplinary committee noted that 'a lengthy period of erasure... would remove forever from practice a dentist who, prior to this tragic incident, had an unblemished career'.

The committee stated that it had considered carefully the seriousness of the findings, including the serious harm to the child, and noted the considerable efforts made by Mr Jones to maintain his clinical competence and standards since erasure.

It noted his commitment never again to provide dental treatment to patients who are under conscious sedation.

The conditions that he must adhere to for the next three years include not providing conscious sedation or administering dental treatment to patients who are under conscious sedation and placing himself under the supervision of a nominated workplace supervisor.