

The Philosophical Implications of Tooth Extraction: Bridging the Gap between Philosophy and Realism

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Abstract

Tooth extraction, a common dental procedure, serves as an intriguing lens through which to explore the interplay between philosophy and realism. This scientific article delves into the philosophical underpinnings of tooth extraction, examining its implications within the realms of ontology, epistemology, and ethics. By exploring the perspectives of philosophical schools such as idealism, materialism, and pragmatism, we aim to shed light on the complex nature of tooth extraction and its broader implications for our understanding of reality and human experience. This article draws upon a wide range of references to provide a comprehensive analysis, fostering an interdisciplinary dialogue between dentistry and philosophy.

Keywords: Tooth Extraction; Philosophy; Realism; Ethics; Ontology

Introduction

Tooth extraction, a routine dental procedure aimed at removing a tooth from its socket in the jawbone, has long been an integral part of oral healthcare. While the primary objective of tooth extraction is to address various dental conditions, such as impacted teeth, severe decay, or orthodontic requirements, the act of extracting a tooth encompasses deeper philosophical implications [1]. By examining tooth extraction through the lens of philosophy and realism, we embark on a thought-provoking journey that delves into fundamental questions about the nature of reality, knowledge, and ethics.

Throughout history, philosophers from various schools of thought have pondered the nature of existence, the acquisition of knowledge, and the principles that guide ethical decision-making. Tooth extraction serves as a unique vantage point from which

to explore these philosophical inquiries, as it raises profound questions about the ontological status of teeth, the epistemological processes involved in understanding tooth extraction, and the ethical considerations surrounding the procedure [2].

Within the realm of ontology, tooth extraction prompts us to question the nature of teeth and their relationship to consciousness. Idealist philosophers, such as George Berkeley and Immanuel Kant, argue that the existence of objects, including teeth, relies on subjective perception. According to this perspective, teeth are not merely physical entities but rather products of our perceptual experiences. Tooth extraction challenges our understanding of the external world, calling into question the reality of teeth beyond our conscious awareness [3,4].

Conversely, materialist philosophies propose that reality consists solely of material objects. Materialism offers a contrasting

perspective on tooth extraction, highlighting the physical properties and composition of teeth. From this standpoint, tooth extraction is viewed as a material process involving the removal of a physical object from its anatomical location. A materialist analysis of tooth extraction emphasizes empirical evidence and scientific understanding, exploring the underlying biological and anatomical aspects of the procedure [5,6].

Epistemologically, tooth extraction invites us to consider how we acquire knowledge about the procedure. Rationalist philosophers argue that knowledge is derived through reason and innate understanding. In the context of tooth extraction, rationalism emphasizes the role of clinical judgment, logical reasoning, and preoperative assessments in guiding dental practitioners' decision-making processes. On the other hand, empiricism emphasizes the importance of sensory experience and observation as the foundation of knowledge [7]. Empiricist perspectives explore the use of dental imaging, clinical observations, and patient feedback to enhance our understanding of tooth extraction and its outcomes [2].

Ethical considerations surrounding tooth extraction provide another significant avenue for philosophical examination. Deontological ethics, proposed by philosophers like Immanuel Kant, focus on moral duties and obligations. When applied to tooth extraction, deontological ethics raises questions about informed consent, the dentist's professional responsibilities, and the ethical implications of prioritizing patient autonomy and well-being. Utilitarian ethics, which prioritize maximizing overall well-being and minimizing harm, offer a contrasting ethical framework. Utilitarian analysis of tooth extraction considers factors such as pain management, long-term oral health benefits, and potential risks, aiming to determine the course of action that maximizes the greatest overall benefit for the individual [8-10].

In this scientific article, we embark on a comprehensive exploration of tooth extraction from the philosophical perspective, bridging the gap between philosophy and realism. By critically engaging with various philosophical schools, including idealism, materialism, rationalism, empiricism, deontological ethics, and utilitarian ethics, we aim to deepen our understanding of tooth extraction's broader philosophical implications. Through interdisciplinary dialogue between dentistry and philosophy, we

shed light on the complex nature of tooth extraction, enriching both fields and paving the way for further philosophical reflections on everyday medical practices.

Discussion

The philosophical debate surrounding tooth extraction encompasses a range of perspectives. Some argue that the procedure is a necessary intervention to address dental conditions and improve oral health [11], while others view it as a violation of the body's natural state [12].

From a philosophical standpoint, the concept of pain plays a significant role in understanding the ethics of tooth extraction. Utilitarian thinkers emphasize the importance of minimizing pain and maximizing overall well-being [9,13]. Whereas deontologists consider the duty of informed consent and the dentist's obligations in providing necessary treatment [4,14].

The debate also extends to the metaphysical realm. Realists argue that teeth have an objective existence independent of human perception [15,16]. While phenomenologists emphasize the subjective experience of teeth and the role of consciousness in their understanding [2,6].

The philosophical exploration of tooth extraction brings forth a multitude of intriguing discussions and debates, providing insights into the nature of reality, knowledge acquisition, and ethical considerations. Through the lens of ontology, tooth extraction invites us to contemplate the ontological status of teeth and their relationship to consciousness. Idealist perspectives, exemplified by philosophers such as George Berkeley, suggest that the existence of teeth is dependent on subjective perception. From this viewpoint, tooth extraction becomes not only a physical procedure but also an act that challenges our understanding of the external world [3].

Conversely, materialist philosophies offer a contrasting perspective, positing that reality consists solely of material objects. A materialist analysis of tooth extraction focuses on the physical properties of teeth, their composition, and the processes involved in their removal. Such considerations highlight the reductionist approach to understanding dental procedures and emphasize the importance of empirical evidence in shaping our knowledge about tooth extraction [7].

Pragmatic philosophies play a significant role in examining tooth extraction from both practical and ethical standpoints. Pragmatism directs attention toward the consequences and benefits associated with tooth extraction. From a practical perspective, the procedure is viewed as a means to alleviate pain, prevent further dental complications, and improve overall oral health. Furthermore, the ethical dimensions of tooth extraction, such as informed consent and patient autonomy, are assessed through pragmatic lenses. The pursuit of the greatest benefit for the individual becomes a guiding principle, balancing the potential risks and benefits associated with tooth extraction [17,18].

Epistemologically, tooth extraction presents an intriguing intersection between rationalism and empiricism. Rationalist perspectives emphasize the role of reason and innate knowledge in understanding the world. In the context of tooth extraction, rationalist epistemology focuses on preoperative assessments, decision-making processes, and postoperative care, highlighting the importance of logical reasoning and clinical judgment. Empiricism, on the other hand, emphasizes sensory experience and observation [19,20]. Empirical evidence, derived from dental imaging, clinical observations, and patient feedback, becomes crucial in shaping our knowledge and understanding of tooth extraction as a medical procedure [21].

Ethical considerations arise prominently in the discussion surrounding tooth extraction. Deontological ethics, exemplified by the moral theories of Immanuel Kant, emphasize duties and moral obligations. From a deontological perspective, tooth extraction raises questions about informed consent, the dentist's professional responsibilities, and the balance between beneficence and respect for autonomy [4,22]. Utilitarian ethics, on the other hand, focus on maximizing overall well-being and minimizing harm. Utilitarian analysis of tooth extraction involves considerations of pain management, long-term oral health benefits, and potential risks associated with the procedure [13,23].

Overall, the philosophical exploration of tooth extraction reveals a rich tapestry of discussions at the intersection of dentistry and philosophy. By examining the ontological, epistemological, and ethical dimensions of tooth extraction, we gain deeper insights into the nature of reality, knowledge acquisition, and ethical decision-making. This interdisciplinary dialogue enriches both

fields and opens avenues for further philosophical reflections on the mundane yet profound aspects of medical practices in our daily lives.

Conclusion

The examination of tooth extraction from a philosophical standpoint has revealed profound insights into the realms of ontology, epistemology, and ethics. Through the lenses of idealism, materialism, rationalism, empiricism, deontological ethics, and utilitarian ethics, we have explored the diverse philosophical dimensions inherent in this seemingly routine dental procedure. This interdisciplinary dialogue between dentistry and philosophy has provided a deeper understanding of tooth extraction and its broader implications for our understanding of reality, knowledge acquisition, and ethical decision-making.

From an ontological perspective, tooth extraction has challenged our perception of the existence of teeth and their relationship to consciousness. Idealist viewpoints have highlighted the subjective nature of tooth existence, suggesting that teeth are products of our perceptual experiences. In contrast, materialism emphasizes the physical properties of teeth, considering them as material objects that can be subjected to extraction. These ontological inquiries into tooth extraction have invited us to question the nature of reality and the role of consciousness in shaping our understanding of the external world.

Epistemologically, tooth extraction has provided a platform for examining different approaches to knowledge acquisition. Rationalist perspectives have emphasized the importance of reason and innate knowledge in guiding dental practitioners' decision-making processes. Through logical reasoning, preoperative assessments, and clinical judgment, rationalism has contributed to the advancement of dental knowledge and practices related to tooth extraction. Empiricist philosophies have highlighted the significance of sensory experience and observation in expanding our understanding of the procedure. The utilization of dental imaging, clinical observations, and patient feedback has enhanced our empirical knowledge of tooth extraction, enriching the evidence-based approach to dental care.

Ethical considerations surrounding tooth extraction have prompted discussions about moral obligations and the pursuit

of overall well-being. Deontological ethics has highlighted the importance of informed consent, patient autonomy, and the responsibilities of dental practitioners in providing ethical dental care. The emphasis on duties and obligations has provided a framework for ensuring that tooth extraction is conducted in a manner that respects the rights and autonomy of patients. Utilitarian ethics, on the other hand, has prioritized the maximization of overall well-being, considering factors such as pain management, long-term oral health benefits, and potential risks. This ethical framework has guided decision-making processes in tooth extraction, aiming to achieve the greatest benefit for the individual and society as a whole.

The interdisciplinary exploration of tooth extraction within the realms of philosophy and realism has demonstrated the interconnectedness and mutual enrichment between these fields. By engaging in a dialogue between dentistry and philosophy, we have deepened our understanding of tooth extraction and its implications. Furthermore, this examination has highlighted the importance of philosophical reflections on everyday medical practices, encouraging a broader perspective and critical analysis of routine procedures.

In conclusion, tooth extraction serves as a compelling subject for philosophical inquiry, offering valuable insights into ontology, epistemology, and ethics. Through the exploration of different philosophical perspectives, we have unveiled the complexities inherent in this common dental procedure. By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, we have contributed to the advancement of both dentistry and philosophy, encouraging further philosophical reflections on medical practices and the fundamental aspects of human experience. The philosophical exploration of tooth extraction ultimately serves as a reminder that even the most mundane procedures can evoke profound philosophical questions, inviting us to contemplate the nature of reality, the acquisition of knowledge, and the ethical principles that guide our actions.

In my opinion, more research into the philosophical nature and ontology of tooth extraction is needed to increase the values and morals that contribute to improving human life with its various orientations and ideologies, regardless of the many differences. More study is required to introduce new values that will improve the compatibility of philosophy with realism.

We only emphasized the topic to conduct an additional, more precise, and in-depth study.

Conflict of Interest

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