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The Austin retractor, also known as the Austin cheek retractor or Austin tissue retractor, is a surgical device used in dental and oral surgeries to retract smooth tissues. It is essential for optimal surgical procedures, such as Le Fort 1 surgery and alveolar bone grafts. Common types of surgical retractors include Lack, Laster, Bowdley Henry Rake, Minnesota, and others.Retractors are used during restorative procedures, crown preparations, filling procedures, orthodontic treatment, and extraction. Diagnostic instruments like mouth mirrors and probes are also used, along with instruments for gaining surgical access such as scalpels and blades. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore various types of surgical retractors, categorized according to their use and unique features and applications.Ribbon retractors are versatile and can be used for various purposes, such as holding soft tissues back and providing better visibility and access to the surgical site during dental procedures. The modified Dingman mouth retractor is a common self-retaining retractor used in oral surgeries, with parallel blunt blades facing laterally. Ainsworth Mirahold Cheek Retractors are also available for adult and child use.Surgical dental retractors hold back soft tissues and provide better visibility and access to the surgical site during dental procedures. The Columbia cheek retractor is used to hold mucoperiosteal flaps, cheeks, lips, and tongue away from the plastic and oral retractors. The Henahan and Seldin retractors are other types of instruments used to retract oral soft tissue, with the Seldin retractor being an essential handheld retractor with a wide range of surgical benefits.Useful Articles on the TopicArticleDescriptionSiteRetractors . InstrumentationMolt mouth gags are designed to leave the mouth and jaw in an open position for extended oral surgeries and examinations.dit-usa.comOral Surgery – RetractorWisdom Teeth Retractor, Upper, Serrated – Blue & Green Inc. Upper third molar Retractor – Dr BERTHOUX – The pair – serratedblueandgreeninc.comRetractors – Surgical Instruments – Oral SurgeryAinsworth Mirahold Cheek Retractor – Adult, 2-Pack A1-605450 ; Ainsworth Mirahold Cheek Retractor – Child, 2-Pack A1-605451 ; Ainsworth Spandex Retractor – Adult, …henryschein.com.au Oral Surgery Instrumentation for Extraction INBDE, ADATIn this video, we discuss a wide variety of instruments used routinely in both simple and surgical extractions. Thanks for watching! (Image Source: Pixabay.com) How Do You Use A Mouth Retractor?The Umbrella™ retractor is designed to comfortably hold the cheeks and lips, allowing for excellent accessibility and coverage of all teeth during dental procedures. This latex-free, flexible retractor facilitates the retraction of soft tissues like lips and cheeks and is ideal for enhancing visibility and accuracy during treatment. To use it correctly, select a retractor that fits your mouth size.Begin by relaxing and bending the retractor a few times before placing it in your mouth, with the outer edges positioned on the corners of your lips. Proper usage ensures that the retractor keeps soft tissues clear, aiding in orthodontic tasks such as tooth alignment, in-office bleaching, and bracket placement.For effective monitoring and treatment, dental retractors help in opening the mouth wider, allowing access to hard-to-reach areas. When using a retracting system, always start with clean retractors, rinsed with soap and water before each use. To insert the retractor, hold it by its handles and squeeze inward, gently placing the curved edges into your mouth. Adjust as needed for comfort to ensure optimal performance during dental monitoring or treatments. This device is essential for maintaining clear visibility and supporting efficient dental care practices. (Image Source: Pixabay.com) What Retractors Are Used In Tonsillectomy?A Hurd dissector and Pillar retractor are vital tools in tonsillectomy and other oral surgeries, used to retract the tonsillar pillar and enhance visibility during procedures. These instruments, combined with suction devices such as the Yankauer or Andrews-Phychon, efficiently clear blood, body fluids, and smoke from the surgical area while keeping the mouth open and the tongue depressed. The Austin retractor, characterized by its right angle and semilunar indentation, aids in retracting soft tissue flaps post-incision, providing access to the teeth.Mollison's anterior pillar retractor specifically examines the tonsillar fossa for bleeding post-tonsil removal. The Crowe-Davis retractor, crucial for retracting pharyngeal tissues, ensures a clear view of the tonsillar bed and minimizes the risk of hidden bleeding. Other related instruments include Boyle-Davis mouth gags, slotted tongue plates, and various forceps and scissors specifically designed for tonsil operations. The importance of these retractors is underscored in ENT procedures, particularly within the laryngeal and tonsil regions.Read also: What Does A Direct Filling Mean In Dentistry?They play a significant role in adapting techniques for procedures such as Transoral Robotic Surgery (TORS). Each tool is crafted to gently hold tonsil tissue, facilitating a clear surgical field for efficient operation. Furthermore, a complete set of tonsillectomy instruments enhances surgical precision and safety. The careful placement of retractors, including the appropriate sizing of tongue blades, is crucial in avoiding damage to surrounding anatomy. Retractors in both oral and dental surgery primarily function to move tissue away from the surgical site, thus improving the surgeon's working environment. (Image Source: Pixabay.com) What Are The Instrument Used In Dental Surgery?Dental instruments are vital for various procedures in dentistry, primarily for examining, cleaning, cutting, and restoring teeth. Key tools include Dental Elevators, which expand the tooth socket and separate teeth from their ligaments; Dental Clamps for improved access to the mouth; and Dental Forceps and Pliers, used for grasping and extracting teeth. Dental Nerve Instruments are specifically designed for surgeries on alveolar nerves and help to loosen teeth from periodontal ligaments. Dental forceps are categorized into Maxillary and Mandibular Forceps based on the direction of their beaks, catering to specific extraction needs.Other essential instruments include scalpels, curettes, and bone grafting tools, each serving distinct roles in examination and surgical procedures. The quality of these tools significantly affects surgical outcomes, enhancing both efficacy and patient safety. A typical surgical tray may contain bite blocks, retraction devices, and various specialized scissors and forceps.Effective use of dental instruments is critical for preventing iatrogenic damage during procedures. Notable brands like Karl Schumacher emphasize precision and ergonomics in surgical instrument design. Additionally, proper care and maintenance of instruments, including sterilization and sharpening, are necessary to ensure functional integrity and patient safety during dental surgeries. (Image Source: Pixabay.com) What Is The Most Common Suture Used In Oral Surgery?Sutures in periodontal surgery are essential for closing gaps between teeth and are often used to manage gum disease or alleviate pain. The primary materials used include Polypropylene, Polyglactin 910, Silk, and Polyglactin 910 Antibacterial. A recent review focused on evaluating these materials concerning their inflammatory responses, bacterial adhesion, and physical properties relevant to surgical applications. Since 2021, guidelines from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence recommend the use of antimicrobial-coated sutures for all wound closures to enhance healing.The simple suture technique, which involves threading a suture from one side of a wound to the other and securing it with a knot, is prevalent in oral surgeries. Various suturing techniques are applicable in dentistry, with absorbable and non-absorbable sutures catering to specific clinical needs, while silk remains a popular choice in non-resorbable options for its beneficial properties. (Image Source: Pixabay.com) What Are Dental Retractors?A Dental Cheek Retractor is an essential instrument in dentistry used to keep soft tissues, like cheeks and lips, away from the teeth, ensuring clear visibility during dental procedures. Two prominent types of retractors are the Austin and Minnesota retractors, which facilitate retraction of cheeks and mucoperiosteal flaps during oral surgeries. The Minnesota retractor features a broad, offset tong design, while the Austin retractor specializes in retracting smooth tissues. Both tools allow dentists to pull the cheeks away from teeth and gums effectively.Cheek retractors are widely utilized in oral surgeries, enhancing visibility and accessibility to the treatment site. They serve multiple functions by allowing safe and successful procedures while preventing injury to soft tissues. By retracting tissues, these devices ensure that the mouth and teeth remain fully exposed, crucial for various dental treatments.Dental retractors are integral to day-to-day dental work, as they reduce the risk of trauma to lips, cheeks, and the tongue during procedures. They enable optimal exposure for dentists and oral surgeons while also enhancing patient comfort. Overall, dental cheek retractors, including specialized types like the Austin and Minnesota, play a vital role in modern dentistry, making procedures safer and more efficient. (Image Source: Pixabay.com) What Tool Is Used For Dental Surgery?Forceps are vital tools for tooth extraction surgeries, having evolved significantly over time to enhance their efficiency. Modern dental forceps are designed for optimal tooth surface grasping and extraction. Dentists utilize four primary surgical tools: mouth mirrors for visibility and retraction, explorers for cavity detection, scalers for tartar removal, and various dental instruments to perform extractions and assessments. Simple extractions target teeth that are easily visible, while specialized instruments, like forceps and elevators, help loosen and extract teeth.Common surgical instruments include scalpels, dental elevators, and bone grafting tools, which improve surgical outcomes. It’s essential for dental practitioners to choose appropriate instruments to prevent patient trauma and iatrogenic injuries. Elevators lift the tooth during extractions, while scissors cut through soft tissue, and scalpels make necessary incisions, such as removing abscesses. Curettes scoop out tissue masses for examination. A typical tooth extraction setup includes cotton rolls, topical numbing agents, gauze, anesthesia needles, and essential instruments like dental drills to efficiently remove tooth decay and prepare cavities for fillings.Read also: What Information Needs To Be In Dental Clinical Notes?Other tools, such as sickle probes, suction devices, and saliva ejectors, play crucial roles during dental procedures. Professional dental practitioners rely on these extraction tools for effective and safe surgeries, ensuring patient well-being throughout the process. (Image Source: Pixabay.com) Which Instrument Is Used To Keep The Patient'S Oral Cavity Open During Surgical Procedures?Retractors like the Jennings mouth gag or dental mouth prop are essential for keeping the mouth open during surgical procedures. Instruments such as Anthony suction tips can facilitate access within the oral cavity, while bone instruments are required for procedures involving the mandible. The Ferguson mouth gag is specifically designed to maintain mouth openness during general anesthesia (GA) and surgeries of the oral cavity, tonsils, and pharynx. This gag features flat blades with serration that rest on the occlusal surfaces of teeth.Dental retractors serve various purposes, including holding back cheeks, lips, and tongue to provide a clear view of the surgical site. Instruments like the curette, which is double-ended, angled, and spoon-shaped, are crucial for extracting tissue and removing small root tips. Additionally, mouth props or bite blocks are utilized to keep teeth apart during longer oral surgical procedures, especially when jaw joint mobility issues arise.In summary, dental surgical instruments such as mouth props or mouth gags are vital for keeping the oral cavity accessible during operations. These tools not only enhance visibility for the dental practitioner but also promote patient comfort and safety. Essential dental instruments across procedures include scalpel (for incisions), bite blocks, and cheek retractors, which collectively ensure effective treatment and proper management of the surgical area. Understanding the types, uses, and best practices for these instruments is important for dental professionals to ensure optimal patient outcomes in surgical settings. (Image Source: Pixabay.com) What Number Blade Is Used In Oral Surgery?The 15C blade offers extended reach for dentists performing periodontal procedures, allowing for precise, fine incisions, making it ideal for dental surgery. The No. 12 blade features a hook shape, predominantly utilized for suture cuts and oral surgeries that require a steady, curved incision. Although less common than No. 10 or No. 11, its unique design proves invaluable in specific scenarios. This summary outlines popular surgical blades used in dental practices:No. 12 Blade: Small, hook-shaped for deep, curved cuts, predominantly used in oral surgeries, especially suture cuts.Blade 10: Characterized by a large, curved cutting edge, suitable for substantial incisions and soft tissue dissection.Blade 11: Sharp-pointed, ideal for small stab incisions, such as draining abscesses and precise cuts.Blade 15: Preferred for delicate procedures like gingivectomy; much used in intraoral surgeries.Scalpel blades, crucial for various oral surgical procedures, come in different sizes, typically ranging from 10 to 25, with higher numbers representing smaller, finer blades. Most frequently employed blades in oral surgery include No. 11, for precision incisions, and No. 15, resembling the No. 10 but smaller. Each blade's characteristics are indicated by their designated numbers, serving as shorthand for their sizing and shape. Surgical blades in dentistry, including the Swann-Morton Surgical Scalpel Blade No.12D, are essential for completing various tasks effectively while maintaining surgical precision, with the Molt No. 9 handle commonly used in these procedures. A sterile blade is imperative for each patient to uphold safety standards during surgery. (Image Source: Pixabay.com) What Are Retractors Used For Surgery?Retractors are crucial surgical instruments applied in various forms to keep incisions open, facilitate tissue retraction, and maintain a clear surgical field. They can be hand-held or self-retaining through a ratcheting mechanism, greatly aiding surgeons in enhancing visibility and access to the surgical site. These instruments come in diverse shapes tailored for specific procedures. Retractors serve multiple functions during operations, such as holding back organs, retracting tissues, clamping and spreading incisions, and exposing wounds. The general term "retractor" refers to simple tools made from durable materials that effectively separate the edges of incisions or hold back certain organs and tissues.By enabling tissue retraction, retractors allow surgeons to access underlying body parts efficiently. They enhance both procedurally and visually by keeping the surgical area unobstructed. In laparoscopic settings, specialized retractors create space by maintaining adjacent structures apart. Some newer retractors also feature light attachments, improving visibility during operations. Particularly in orthopedic surgeries, retractors help elevate bones, provide traction, and assist in positioning orthopedic fixtures. Overall, the use of surgical retractors significantly improves the functionality and safety of surgical procedures by freeing surgeons' hands and ensuring optimal access to the surgical site. SERRATED MINNESOTA RETRACTOR OnlineExodontia.comDo You Want An Experienced Dentist That You Can Contact Anytime To Support Your Efforts? Join Me. The O.S. Accelerator … Retractors used in oral surgery or dental surgery are primarily involved in moving tissue away from the surgical site to improve both visibility and access. They are also used to move buccal tissue away from the site. Some retractors are used to retract the palate to provide access to the posterior portion of the oral cavity And they can provide an unimpeded pathway for removing foreign bodies or teeth from the oral cavity. Light is a common concern for oral surgery. This is true of any surgery, but the mouth itself is a limited area and light must be able to flexibly shine on the target area. Retractors play a big part in this. Here we’ll cover the main retractors used in oral and dental surgery, with some newer tech that really helps. 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This deficit can be overcome by using a retractor that has its own light source at the tip of the working end. A self-contained light source ensures adequate visualization without the need for excessive manipulation of soft tissue to accommodate that source. Our lightweight koplight™ retractor, made of a plastic polymer and with a battery-powered LED light source offers a potential solution here. The detachable blades come in various shapes and sizes to accommodate the surgeon’s or dentist’s needs. Yasui koplight™ lighted blade As the name implies, self-retaining retractors keep themselves open, without the need for human force. For oral surgeries, this is a key feature as there is limited space and the assistant may be busy with suction, arranging instruments, etc. Oral surgeries are crowded, and a self-retaining retractor can help. It saves space and reduces fatigue. A common self-retaining retractor used in oral surgeries is the modified Dingman mouth retractor. This retractor is used with cleft palate and other intraoral surgeries. It’s a self-retaining retractor with a set of parallel blunt blades facing laterally. The blades retract the buccal mucosa away from each other. Some variations of the Dingman retractor are equipped with a light source and a fiber-optic camera for easier visualization. A disadvantage of this retractor is the lack of versatility – once the retractor has been put in place, it can’t be moved freely. This retractor can’t be used to visualize deep structures and is not fit for use in surgeries involving the posterior oral cavity. A soft palate retractor has a butterfly-shaped tip with a central notch to prevent the uvula from slipping from side to side. The purpose of the soft palate retractor is to pull the soft palate superiorly to expose the nasopharynx. This retractor is commonly used in tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy. The limitation of this retractor is the lack of versatility because it has a singular purpose; which is to retract the soft palate and hold the uvula in place. Light is for dental work and oral surgery, as it’s done in a small space – the mouth The Latrobe is one type of soft palate retractor. It’s shaped at a right angle with the blunt working end bent at an angle. The angle at the working end is designed to hold the uvula in place at the right angle, and the blunt tip is designed to retract the soft palate superiorly. This allows access to the posterior portion of the oral cavity. This retractor is used in adenoidectomy, tonsillectomy, and extracting tonsilloliths. A disadvantage of this retractor is the consistent traction that’s needed for it to be effective. A small number of case reports have also surfaced regarding damage to the soft tissues of the superior portion of the oral cavity during its use. — For oral surgeries, the koplight™ surgical light retractor is small and maneuverable. Contact us at Yasui for more details and uses of this made-in-Japan retractor. Retractors used in oral surgery or dental surgery are primarily involved in moving tissue away from the surgical site to improve both visibility and access. They are also used to move buccal tissue away from the site. Some retractors are used to retract the palate to provide access to the posterior portion of the oral cavity And they can provide an unimpeded pathway for removing foreign bodies or teeth from the oral cavity. Light is a common concern for oral surgery. This is true of any surgery, but the mouth itself is a limited area and light must be able to flexibly shine on the target area. Retractors play a big part in this. 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Contact us at Yasui for more details and uses of this made-in-Japan retractor. 42 items Sort By Position Product Name Price Set Descending Direction Page You're currently reading page 1 Page 2 Page Next Surgical dental retractors hold back soft tissues and provide better visibility and access to the surgical site during dental procedures.They are designed with slender blades that gently retract the cheeks, lips, tongue, or other oral tissues, allowing the dental professional to work efficiently and safely.At Swallow Dental, we stock high-quality dental retractors from leading dental brands, such as Devemed, MKJ and Tatum. Surgical retractors are essential instruments in the world of surgery. They assist surgeons in holding back tissues, providing better visibility and access to the surgical site. These instruments come in various shapes and sizes, each designed for specific purposes in different surgical procedures. In this comprehensive guide, we’ll delve into the diverse types of surgical retractors, categorized according to their use, and discuss their unique features and applications.1- General Surgical RetractorsRibbon RetractorsRibbon retractors are versatile instruments with flexible, ribbon-like blades. They are commonly used in various surgical procedures to hold back soft tissues, such as skin and muscles, and maintain exposure of the surgical field.Balfour RetractorThe Balfour retractor is a self-retaining abdominal retractor with a unique hinged design. It is frequently used in abdominal surgeries, particularly for retracting the abdominal wall muscles to access abdominal organs like the liver or intestines.Army-Navy RetractorArmy-Navy retractors are handheld, double-ended instruments with curved, blunt blades. They are often used in general surgeries to retract and hold back tissues during procedures like appendectomies and bowel surgeries.Gelpi RetractorGelpi retractors are small, self-retaining retractors with sharp, pointed prongs. They are widely utilized in orthopedic, neurosurgical, and plastic surgery procedures to retract delicate tissues.Richardson RetractorRichardson retractors have a double-ended design with one end featuring sharp prongs, and the other end having blunt prongs. They are employed in various surgical fields for deep tissue retraction.2- Neurosurgical and Spinal RetractorsCranial RongeurCranial rongeurs are specialized instruments used in neurosurgery to remove small pieces of bone during procedures like craniotomies.Greenberg RetractorThe Greenberg retractor is a self-retaining, deep retractor commonly used in neurosurgery to provide access to the brain during surgeries like tumor resections.Caspar Cervical RetractorCaspar retractors are used in spinal surgeries, particularly cervical procedures, to hold back muscles and tissues, allowing access to the cervical spine.Love Spinal RetractorLove retractors are designed for spinal surgeries, particularly for lumbar and thoracic procedures. They have a flexible frame and are used to retract soft tissues around the spine.Meyerding RetractorMeyerding retractors are used in spinal surgery, particularly for lumbar procedures. They have a curved shape and are designed to retract muscles and tissues to expose the surgical site.3- Cardiovascular and Thoracic RetractorsDeBakey Atraumatic Vascular RetractorDeBakey retractors are widely used in cardiovascular surgery to gently hold back blood vessels and delicate tissues. They have atraumatic tips to minimize tissue damage.Finochietto Rib SpreaderFinochietto retractors, also known as rib spreaders, are used in thoracic surgeries to separate the ribs and provide access to the chest cavity.Weitlaner RetractorWeitlaner retractors are self-retaining instruments with sharp prongs that are commonly used in various surgical fields, including thoracic surgery, to hold back tissues.Duval Lung SpatulaDuval spatulas are specialized instruments used in thoracic surgery to gently manipulate and retract lung tissue.Rib ShearsRib shears are used in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery to cut and separate ribs, providing access to the chest cavity.4- Orthopedic and Joint RetractorsHohmann RetractorHohmann retractors are commonly used in orthopedic surgery, particularly in joint procedures, to hold back soft tissues and provide access to bones and joints.Langenbeck RetractorLangenbeck retractors are versatile instruments with a curved, flat blade on one end and a sharp, pointed blade on the other. They are frequently used in orthopedic and joint surgeries for tissue retraction.Garrigues RetractorGarrigues retractors are used in joint surgeries, such as hip replacements, to retract muscles and tissues around the joint.Harrington RetractorHarrington retractors are designed for spinal surgeries, particularly for scoliosis correction procedures. They have a curved shape to retract tissues along the spine.McGivney Hemostatic ForcepsMcGivney forceps are used in orthopedic and joint surgeries for tissue retraction and hemostasis.5- Ophthalmic and Plastic Surgery RetractorsBarraquer Wire SpeculumBarraquer wire speculums are ophthalmic instruments used in eye surgery to hold back the eyelids and keep the eye open during procedures like cataract surgery.Desmarres Lid RetractorDesmarres retractors are ophthalmic instruments used to hold back the eyelids and provide access to the eye during surgeries.Joseph Lid PlateJoseph lid plates are used in ophthalmic surgery to hold back the eyelids during procedures like ptosis correction.Aufricht Nasal RetractorAufricht retractors are often used in plastic and reconstructive surgery, particularly for rhinoplasty procedures, to hold back tissues and provide access to the nasal structure.Ragnell RetractorRagnell retractors are plastic surgery instruments used for tissue retraction and exposure in facial procedures.6- Abdominal and Gynecological RetractorsBookwalter Self-Retaining RetractorThe Bookwalter retractor is a versatile self-retaining retractor used in abdominal and gynecological surgeries to hold back abdominal tissues.Heaney Hysterectomy ForcepsHeaney forceps are used in gynecological surgeries, including hysterectomies, for tissue retraction and manipulation.Vaginal SpeculumVaginal speculums are gynecological instruments used to hold open the vaginal walls, allowing access to the cervix and vaginal canal.Fan RetractorFan retractors are often used in abdominal surgeries to hold back abdominal muscles and tissues.Cusco Vaginal SpeculumCusco speculums are gynecological instruments used to hold open the vaginal walls during examinations and procedures.About Rigor InstrumentsHigh-quality surgical instruments are essential to the success of any procedure, no matter how straightforward or difficult it may be for the patient, and this is where Rigor Instruments can help you.Rigor is a second-generation surgical instruments manufacturer and surgical instruments supplier from Sialkot Pakistan providing best quality in all kinds of Surgical Instruments since 1985. Our surgical instruments include electro surgical instruments, neuro surgical instruments, plastic surgery instruments, dental surgical instruments, retractors, forceps surgical instruments, general surgical instruments, ophthalmic surgical instruments, ENT surgical instruments and many more.Our exquisite quality and competitive pricing has given us great competitive advantage in the global surgical instruments market. Our ambition is to become a leader in international market in all Surgical Instruments. Dental surgery requires special surgical instruments. A typical tray in a dental surgical theater might include mouth props and gags, cheek retractors, periosteal elevators, tissue scissors, tissue forceps, and curettes. Surgical Instruments for Dental Surgery Mouth Props and Gags Sedated patients require devices to hold their mouths open during surgery. For example, a patient may be asked to bite down on a mouth prop, which is placed in the posterior part of the mouth. A mouth gag, is a metal instrument with a locking device, can also be used to keep the mouth of a sedated patient open. Cheek and Tongue Retractors Cheek retractors move the cheek and tongue out of the way, improve visibility, and protect tissues surrounding the surgical site. There are several different types of retractors, including Kilner cheek retractors, Bowdler Henry cheek retractors, and Minnesota retractors. Periosteal Elevators This tool is used to separate tissue from the tooth or bone, as well as from the surgical site. It has two working ends: one with a pointed tip, and another that is rounded with sharp edges. Tissue Scissors Tissue scissors are used for cutting soft tissue during surgery, and can be curved or straight. They come in different lengths and sizes. Tissue Forceps Tissue forceps are used to grasp and retract tissues, so that the surgical site is better exposed. They can be serrated or rat-toothed, and come in many different sizes. Curettes Curettes are used to remove debris or infectious material from the socket of the tooth, and can also be used for tissue debridement. Curettes are available with shanks of different shapes, and can be double or single ended. Dental surgery requires special surgical instruments. A typical tray in a dental surgical theater might include mouth props and gags, cheek retractors, periosteal elevators, tissue scissors, tissue forceps, and curettes. Surgical Instruments for Dental Surgery Mouth Props and Gags Sedated patients require devices to hold their mouths open during surgery. For example, a patient may be asked to bite down on a mouth prop, which is placed in the posterior part of the mouth. A mouth gag, is a metal instrument with a locking device, can also be used to keep the mouth of a sedated patient open. Cheek and Tongue Retractors Cheek retractors move the cheek and tongue out of the way, improve visibility, and protect tissues surrounding the surgical site. 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This retractor is used to retract soft tissue flaps after incision away from the tooth. Modifications in the Austin retractor allow some versatility so that it can even be used in surgeries on the posterior oral cavity. A disadvantage of the Austin retractor is its tendency to cause bleeding in friable tissues (those that team more easily) if excessive force is used. The sharp tip of the pronged variety of the Austin retractor is also prone to cause bleeding if mispositioned. Since the Austin retractor is used to enable the sight of deep tissues, one limitation is the need to constantly adjust its angle to accommodate the light source. Only can it give allow adequate light and visualization. This deficit can be overcome by using a retractor that has its own light source at the tip of the working end. A self-contained light source ensures adequate visualization without the need for excessive manipulation of soft tissue to accommodate that source. Our lightweight koplight™ retractor, made of a plastic polymer and with a battery-powered LED light source offers a potential solution here. The detachable blades come in various shapes and sizes to accommodate the surgeon’s or dentist’s needs. Yasui koplight™ lighted blade As the name implies, self-retaining retractors keep themselves open, without the need for human force. For oral surgeries, this is a key feature as there is limited space and the assistant may be busy with suction, arranging instruments, etc. Oral surgeries are crowded, and a self-retaining retractor can help. It saves space and reduces fatigue. A common self-retaining retractor used in oral surgeries is the modified Dingman mouth retractor. This retractor is used with cleft palate and other intraoral surgeries. It’s a self-retaining retractor with a set of parallel blunt blades facing laterally. The blades retract the buccal mucosa away from each other. Some variations of the Dingman retractor are equipped with a light source and a fiber-optic camera for easier visualization. A disadvantage of this retractor is the lack of versatility – once the retractor has been put in place, it can’t be moved freely. This retractor can’t be used to visualize deep structures and is not fit for use in surgeries involving the posterior oral cavity. A soft palate retractor has a butterfly-shaped tip with a central notch to prevent the uvula from slipping from side to side. The purpose of the soft palate retractor is to pull the soft palate superiorly to expose the nasopharynx. This retractor is commonly used in tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy. The limitation of this retractor is the lack of versatility because it has a singular purpose; which is to retract the soft palate and hold the uvula in place. Light is for dental work and oral surgery, as it’s done in a small space – the mouth The Latrobe is one type of soft palate retractor. It’s shaped at a right angle with the blunt working end bent at an angle. The angle at the working end is designed to hold the uvula in place at the right angle, and the blunt tip is designed to retract the soft palate superiorly. This allows access to the posterior portion of the oral cavity. This retractor is used in adenoidectomy, tonsillectomy, and extracting tonsilloliths. A disadvantage of this retractor is the consistent traction that’s needed for it to be effective. A small number of case reports have also surfaced regarding damage to the soft tissues of the superior portion of the oral cavity during its use. — For oral surgeries, the koplight™ surgical light retractor is small and maneuverable. Contact us at Yasui for more details and uses of this made-in-Japan retractor.