



Journal of Prosthodontics Dentistry
An Official Publication of Bureau for Health & Education Status Upliftment
(Constitutionally Entitled as Health-Education, Bureau)

**Knowledge, attitude and practice of disinfection protocol during covid19
pandemic: a survey among dental practionioners**

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Abstract:


Page:

1

Aims: The aim of the study was to evaluate the knowledge, attitude and practice of disinfection protocol during covid 19 pandemic among dental practitioners & postgraduates. Settings and Design: **Methods and Material:** The present study was conducted among practicing dentists with Bachelor's degree in dental surgery, masters in dental surgery including post graduate students and faculty using a structured questionnaire. Questionnaire containing 30 questions were distributed among 320 dentists in Kerala. Data were collected and analyzed. Statistical analysis used: the calculated sample size for the study is 320.SPSS (Statistical Package For Social Sciences) version 20. [IBM SPASS statistics (IBMcorp. Armonk, NY, USA released 2011)] used to perform the statistical analysis. Descriptive statistics of the explanatory and outcome variables are calculated by mean, standard deviation for quantitative variables, frequency and proportions for qualitative variables. **Results:** The response showed that 93.4% of the responders were aware of the potential risk of covid 19 transmission through oral fluids of infected individual. Almost 96.9% of the dentists mentioned covid 19 virus can transmit through oral fluids of infected individuals. About 95.9% agreed that asymptomatic patients and patients in their incubation period also carry covid virus. Almost 96% of the dentist agreed that contaminated impression and cast becomes a tool for the transmission of virus. About 51.6% of the dentists were aware of the survival time period of corona virus. About 67.8% of responders had knowledge regarding structure of corona virus. Nearly 86% thought that it's easy to inactivate covid virus through disinfection. Almost 86% thought that alcohol based disinfectants are effective against corona virus. About 70% of dentist mentioned that surface disinfection prevents the spread of corona virus to some extent. About 93.8% thought that special precautions and disinfection protocol is required during COVID 19 pandemic. Almost 66 % of dentists were aware of the ADA and CDC guidelines. Almost 85.3% of dentists were aware about different disinfectants used for different

impressions to avoid adverse reaction. Nearly 51.2% dentists preferred glutaraldehyde for disinfecting bite registration or wax rims. Almost 58% responders preferred sodium hypochlorite for disinfecting Acrylic denture. Only 16% of the responders send regular notes about disinfection to the lab. Nearly 60% of the dentists have knowledge about disinfection protocol followed for prosthesis delivered to their clinic. Only 51.2% of the responders were aware of EPA recommended disinfectants for use against covid 19 virus. **Conclusions:** This study shows that practices and awareness of dental practitioner regarding disinfection protocols during covid 19 pandemic are less than ideal. There is lack of communication between dentists and dental lab regarding disinfection protocols.

Key-words: Disinfection, covid -19, Survey, Dental practitioners.

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Website: http://heb-nic.in/jopd	
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Accepted on 17/01/2022 © HEB All rights reserved	