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## ASSESSMENT OF DENTIST PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE ON DIFFERENT CARIES REMOVAL STRATEGIES AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC – A CROSS SECTIONAL SURVEY AMONG INDIAN DENTIST

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### ABSTRACT:

**Background:** The Pandemic of Covid-19 has influenced dental practice by restricting aerosol generating procedures. Most dental procedures involve the use of high speed airtors and ultrasonics, generating significant volume of aerosols and droplets posing a potential risk of cross infection.

**Aim:** To determine Dentist's perception and attitude on different caries removal strategies amidst covid-19 pandemic among dental practitioners in India.

**Methodology:** A close ended validated Questionnaire was structured to assess the perception and attitude among the dental practitioners in India.

**Statistical analysis:** Simple descriptive statistics were used to define characteristics of the variables using numbers and percentage for categorical variables.

**Results:** Majority of the participants preferred to use Slow-speed handpiece (72.77%)>ART (59.40%)> Chemo-mechanical agents (38%)> Caries detecting dyes (29.20%)> Electric handpiece (25.24%)> Lasers (17.32%)> Silver diamine fluoride (10.39%) as an alternative to Airtors.

**Conclusion:** Most of the participants (50%) found it safe to use Airtors following all standard operatory protocols amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

**Keywords:** Caries removal strategies, Selective caries removal, Dental practice in Covid-19 pandemic.

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