



Dental Practice in Pre-Covid and During COVID Times

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Description

The word Coronavirus is not uncommon anymore with its worldwide scare and rapid spread. There is not a field which has not been affected directly or indirectly. The maximum onus has fallen on the medical and the dental professionals to operate under such high risk. Infection control measures have done a makeover with inclusion of personal protective equipment, respirators in addition to the existing measures like 3-ply masks, gloves and eyewear. The investments on redesigning the dental operatory to counteract the risk of infection have been heavy with additions like HEPA filters and other sanitization measures.

During the first COVID-19 wave, most of the practitioners were in the dark about the protective measures to adopt, treatment procedures to carry out, the imposed restrictions on dental practice by government and the fatal implications upon themselves. The sequelae were progressive dental conditions due to unavailability of care, seizure of regular dental check-ups leading to neglect and overlooking serious conditions like oral cancer. Only emergency care was rendered and that too in compromised form. Due to the fear of contracting COVID-19 many dental practitioners rendered only dental-check ups leading to severe financial duress and had to even close down practice. Most of the Medical, Dental and Nursing professionals took the major brunt of this disease with many deaths being reported in this sector.

The budding dental professionals also took a veritable hit in their academic and clinical learning. Most of the graduate and post graduate examinations relied on models rather than patients leading to reduced authenticity of the examination system. The patient numbers have failed to reach the pre-covid proportions due to the previous postponements, pre-treatment RT-PCR testing and general fear of contracting covid infection.

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