



From the Editor's Desk

Dentistry and COVID-19

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Covid-19 with its origin from China has gripped the whole globe and emerged as one of the biggest threat to the mankind ever. The World Health Organisation has already declared it as a public health emergency of international concern and so the respective nations have taken several measures to prevent further spread and save lives of their citizens.

Since the spread of COVID-19 virus is identified as one of the most alarming concern, scientific fraternity started several studies to know every behavioral details of the virus. The modes of transmission of covid-19 virus are identified as respiratory droplets and contact routes whereas in an analysis of 75,455 COVID-19 cases in China, airborne transmission was not reported.

As far as dentistry is concerned, the profession is one of the high risk groups prone to infection, pertaining to the type of intraoral procedures and equipment involved. Especially the aerosol produce during the use of high speed rotary instruments is a major concern as the droplets are microns in size and stay in environment for a longer period of time. These aerosols can be the carrier for covid-19 if produced from an infected patient and therefore serve as a potent source for cross infections to healthcare and other patients around the clinical area.

The guidelines from Ministry of Health and Family welfare department for dental profession have classified the dental treatments in emergency and urgent procedures with clearly mentions of their risk levels. It has also elaborated the modifications required for dental clinic setup which includes preparation of clinical area, training of healthcare workers, disinfection procedures, biomedical waste management techniques and lot more.

Meanwhile, the Indian government has put a lock down and most of the dental clinics are currently not functioning but there will be a time when we have to treat all patients like we used to do in normal days but this time with the risk of covid-19 virus infections around us. In that time, the knowledge of the behavior of COVID-19 virus will emerge as a most powerful weapon to fight against the virus. We need to enrich us through different evidence based researches and studies happening around the globe to keep ourselves updated. This is the only way forward to keep ourselves as well as the people around us safe from the COVID-19 virus while performing our dental services.

Dentistry in New Normal world will be a New Normal Dentistry too.

References:

1. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
2. <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/DentalAdvisoryF.pdf>

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