



From the desk of Editor- in-Chief.....

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Resuming regular clinical activities at dental premises post COVID 19 is quiet challenging for all dental institutes. Dental professionals should be prepared to treat every patient as a suspected COVID-19 carrier and be ready to receive and manage an overwhelming number of patients. Post Covid dental practices have established a sensible workforce shift schedule, improve ventilation levels & reduce dental aerosol generating procedures.

Post-Covid we know the influx of patients will increase and our challenge is here to regulate the flow of the patients and prioritize care to ensure social distancing measures to be followed and it is important to reduce patient's suffering and potential complications from long waiting times. "Adaptive" clinic schedules should be established i.e having one hour of overlap between shifts reducing workload stress and possibility of viral spread. We all should be prepared for the "new normal" that is procurement of instruments such as pulse oximeter, N95 mask, and face shields. In reception and waiting areas, proper two meter distance should be there between patients. Proper ventilation and air circulation should be there. All unnecessary accessories should be removed from waiting areas. Teledentistry can be integrated into routine dental practice. At the initial screening, all individuals entering the clinic should complete a COVID 19 risk assessment questionnaire should be noted.

Clinical waste volumes are expected to increase due to the increase due to the increase in the use of PPE, and the clinical waste from any suspected patient should be treated as suspected COVID 19 clinical waste. Contact tracing is also effective method to contain outbreak so for that dental electronic patient records should be updated to enable recording information to facilitate this. Clinical engineering controls, such as installing high-efficiency air filters, raising ventilation levels, and providing negative ventilation pressure can reduce exposure to hazards. Regular daily monitoring of the air pressure periodically with audible or visual control system is mandatory.

In my opinion development of a comprehensive guidance to health care workers with ongoing updates will surely reduce the burden on the dental clinics to face the post COVID 19 challenges and always believe that

"One of the biggest change we should require in our society is to change shift from reaction to prevention"

Your's:

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Editor-in- Chief

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