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Future of Dentistry Due to COVID-19

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Editorial

As we all know since a few months, we are facing the same dilemma or fear of COVID-19. The whole world is suffering from this viral infection, and according to the WHO, this virus hold a large number of family of other viruses too. Every sector whether medical, dental, sports, business or industries all are affected by this COVID-19. Still the count of getting infected is increasing day by day, many people lost their lives at early stage of their life or at late stage of their life. During this phase of COVID-19, many medical or dental professionals got infected while performing treatment or as a front line warriors. But due to COVID-19, situations won't be the same as before, when we used to freely perform treatment and go for treating patient from one place to another, now we as a dentist are more at a risk from getting infected by this virus.

In dentistry, from now onwards we have to put more focus on isolation and prevention of spread of infection, otherwise it will be very difficult for dentist as well as for patient in future. Even dental students are at more risk in colleges or while doing their internship during this phase and it is impossible to shut down dental colleges also because it is necessary for needed patients too in rural area to be open.

The role of the dentist in the society for preventing and diagnosing dental infections should change from now onwards for the betterment of dentistry and the social

welfare of human kind. From now, as dentists; we have to care from the initial stage of every case without leaving single detail of patient whether it is related to their medical history, dental history or past treatment history; mainly we have to add travel history from now because patient may get infections while travelling from these infected area. Patients with respiratory disease, conjunctivitis and cardiovascular diseases are more at risk because of COVID-19. Dentist or dental student should avoid contact with patients those who are having history of respiratory or cardiac abnormalities.

We have to avoid dental treatments during this phase until unless there is an emergency like pain, trauma or swelling. Try giving medications and give appointments for normal dental treatments. While diagnosing please wash your hands after seeing every patient and avoid touching your face and eyes. From now onwards, we should strictly follow the protocol of using disposable surgical mask, rubber dam and high speed suction pump to avoid contamination of aerosols and saliva droplets while undergoing dental procedures followed by fumigation (70% ethanol or 0.5% hydrogen peroxide, 0.1% sodium hypochlorite) of working zone before and after dental procedures.

Awareness about COVID-19 should be provided with help the of social media aids or posters. At last, I just want to say that future of dentistry and our health depends on us; how seriously we are going to take this pandemic situation in our clinical practice and daily life.

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