

## Clinical Dental Care: Is There a Risk of SARS-CoV<sub>2</sub> Infection?

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Dear Editor,

Today, visit the Dental Care Clinic may increase the risk of SARS-CoV<sub>2</sub> [1], infection, caused by exposure of salivary fluids to aerosol generators, which are common in dental equipment.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), dentists and their staff are placed in the category of a very high risk of exposure, as dentists work near the patient's oral cavity [2]. In addition, dental procedures involve the use of rotating instruments such as handpieces and scalers, which generate aerosols. Therefore, a better understanding of the transmission mechanisms, clinical features and testing methods of the virus is needed to help form protocols for dental practices to identify cases and prevent further spread of infection to patients and dental staff.

Although biosecurity protocols have been developed that attempt to minimize the possibility of infection, it is not certain whether they prevent transmission of the infection [3,4]. So, what should be done? Are the dentists and patients who use these protocols safe?

Finding options that go beyond the simple search for biosecurity barriers [5], for example, the use of digital tools, which are currently used successfully for distance education [6], could replace conventional activities such as consultation and patient monitoring.

A dentist usually uses one appointment to take a medical history, another appointment for dental treatment and one more appointment to monitor the evolution of symptoms [2]. Thus, instead of visiting the dentist three times for treatment, with the development and use of digital applications, only one visit would be made for the dental procedure.

The disadvantage of digital tools is the reduced time to develop and maintain a positive relationship between the doctor and the patient and to require an adequate Internet service and audio and video equipment to facilitate its use.

Dentists must adapt quickly to new forms of care, responding to demand in a responsible manner and understanding that it is not just a matter of providing a solution to an oral health problem, but also helping to mitigate the possibility of infection.

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