



Glove Wearing is a Must for Cross Infection Control

Eldiven Giyilmesi Çapraz Enfeksiyonun Kontrolü için Zorunludur

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Dear Editor,

Glove wearing is important to control occurrence of infections in dentistry. Safety of patient and self, with prevention of cross contamination should be of paramount importance despite slight inconvenience. Clinician should not only take into account the cost and convenience for themselves but also be genuinely interested about the convenience, cost and safety to the patient. Cost to the patient and doctors are likely to be higher together with emotional misery, if at all cross contamination occurs in a clinical setting. The regulating and controlling bodies have righteously and judiciously recommended dentists to wear the gloves. Dentists should steadfastly follow the prescribed guidelines to prevent cross infections in clinical setting and presume that every patient including oneself is a potential source of infection. If prescribed guidelines for cross infection control are strictly observed, chances of cross contamination infection will be less.

The thinking that small amounts of cross transmission of microorganisms can be beneficial if gloves are not worn is not correct¹. Obviously the patient is likely to be exposed to several microbial challenges in multiple types of environment, in addition to the dental clinic environment. Also, if at all unfortunately a cross contamination of HIV or hepatitis B virus cross infection occurs in the

clinical setting due to non use of gloves, the benefits of strengthening immune system is disastrously overridden by the dangerous consequences of these infections. Also the assumption that glove wearing measures are ineffective when there are lesions/ breaks in the skin or mucous membrane or through the natural weak site of periodontal membrane is not correct¹. There are always some weak points in any clinical management systems. So giving importance to these less important points in lieu of their offering of obvious increased benefits and safety, in a big picture would be a serious miscalculation. Hand hygiene practice should be practiced before and after wearing gloves². Getting tired by wearing gloves is due to wearing gloves of wrong sizes³. Allergies to gloves can be minimized by using non-latex gloves such as nitrile gloves⁴⁻⁶. Double gloves should be worn (double gloving) and utmost care should be taken not to get punctured the gloves or microperforation of gloves⁷. Gloves should be frequently changed within 90 minutes and preferably 15 minutes to minimize non detection of microperforation⁷⁻⁸. Thicker gloves should be avoided when sensory discrimination is expected to cause problems in dexterity⁹. Use of disposable single use gloves is encouraged. Gloves should be stored in a cool and dry place and they should not be reused as it increases the chances of cross infection between the doctor and

patient¹⁰. Excellent results are obtained when glove wearing is continued with hand sanitation¹¹.

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