

P41 : EVALUATION OF AWARENESS OF DENTAL WORKERS RELATED TO STERILIZATION AND DISINFECTION

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Objective: Dental workers can be directly or indirectly contaminated by blood, saliva and respiratory system's fluid. They can also be infected with several microorganisms via direct contact, aerosols, contaminated dental equipment and surfaces. Therefore, workers have to be informed about the ways of contamination and protection methods. For this purpose, this study has been carried out to evaluate the awareness of health workers on this subject.

Method: A questionnaire was prepared to evaluate the awareness of dental workers. It was formulated according to the "Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings 2003" reported by CDC (Center of Disease Control). First off, dental workers are grouped as; dentists (n=336), dental students (n=247), nurses (n=38), dental assistants (n=8), and janitors (n=35) and then each group was trained separately. The awareness and expectations of 664 people who attended the seminars and their feedback about the problems they had confronted during the applications of decontamination and disinfection was evaluated by the questionnaire.

Results: The participants declared that the education had met its goal and their expectations (100%). Besides, following the evaluation of questionnaire, other results such as; the participants were expecting to receive elaborate information about the topic (84%), and they were aware of the importance of the subject (96%), the necessity of obtaining more information about the selection of disinfectants and their applications (88%) and continuous education (22%) were determined.

Conclusion: It was concluded that although dental workers are aware of the importance of the subject, an efficient disinfection can not be accomplished and biocidal products are not being properly used pertaining to the factors such as; excessive number of patients, shortage of disinfection time, lack of knowledge and ability of operators, undesired physical conditions of the hospital, negligence of guidelines and insufficient controls.

Keywords: Sterilization, disinfection, awareness tests, dentistry