Dental Team and prevention Covid 19

Preamble

Covid19 is transmitted from people who are already infected, ill or asymptomatic carriers of the virus, by direct transmission of particles emitted when coughing, sneezing or simply talking, or indirect transmission through contact via a contaminated inert surface (WHO, 2020; HCSP, 5 March 2020; WHO, 2020).

There is therefore a need for both "droplet" and "contact" type prevention. Aerosol is one of the main routes of transmission and should be taken into account in dental practices.

As the dental team is in direct contact with the patients, the rules of hygiene and protection must be respected and applied.

Activity of dental team

Dentist

A dentist who has two or more symptoms for the serious form of COVID-19 must contact his or her attending physician or any dedicated person. The latter will assess, according to his or her state of health, working conditions, the risk of exposure and the epidemic context in the area, whether or not it is possible for the practitioner to continue his or her professional activity.

Others members

When a member of the dental team presents symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, he or she must interrupt his or her work activity and contact his or her occupational physician or attending physician to assess the symptoms and prescribe a diagnostic sample. In the case of salaried staff, they must inform their employer and implement an isolation protocol if necessary.

Personal hygiene measures

All persons working in the dental practice should take the following precautions:

* Forearms free
* Short nails, without varnish, nail polish, false nails or solid resins,
* Do not wear jewelry on hands and wrists (bracelet, ring, wedding band, watch). Wearing earrings or a necklace is not recommended;
* Preferably not to have a beard
* Tie medium or long hair;
* Wear a clean professional outfit dedicated to the activity.
* Professional dress must not leave the office. As far as possible, professional clothing should not be washed in the careers’ home: plan a washing procedure within the practice or by a service provider (minimum: 30 minutes at 60 degrees);
* Rubbing with an SHA or washing hands and forearms with soap should be carried out after each change of outfit.
* Wear and change gloves between each patient.

Protective clothing

* Non-care team (non-care staff never entering the care space, including the dental technicians)

Continuous wearing of the surgical mask or type 2R is required. In the absence of effective splash protection in the reception area (glass, plastic panel, etc.), it is recommended to wear goggles or a face shield.

The wearing time of the same surgical mask or type 2R must not exceed 4 hours, failing which the product's own recommendations must be followed, while respecting the rules of use.

* Care team (dentist and other dental team members entering the care space)

The entire dental team and those who carry out the biocleaning of the treatment room must be equipped with the same personal protective equipment (PPE).

The care team must wear professional clothing dedicated to the care activity:

* trousers,
* tunic with short sleeves,
* closed shoes.

For certain treatments, it is necessary to wear additional PPE like cap, overalls, apron....

*Eye protection / Protective goggles and/or face shield*

The face shield protects the mask and limits the risk of it becoming soiled. Some "home-made" face shields may not be strong enough to withstand the projection of dental debris or fractured burs, for example. In this case, it seems reasonable to wear glasses under the face shield.

*Breathing protection*

The mask should be worn according to the recommendations of each national authority.

However, wearing the FFP2 mask without valves (or equivalent, e.g. N95, KN95, etc.) is recommended during aerosol-generating treatments considering its high fluttering power.

An FFP2 mask is normally a single-use mask. In the event of a shortage, it is possible to extend its use without exceeding the maximum duration of 8 hours, but due to the discomfort associated with prolonged wearing of such a mask, it is advisable to keep it for a maximum of 4 hours. The FFP2 mask can be kept for several patients if it is not soiled, wet or handled.

When the caregiver is not wearing an FFP2 mask, the continuous wearing of the surgical mask and type 2R is required and must comply with the mask usage rules.

*Protection of professional clothing*

Changing the professional outfit at the end of each half-day and as soon as it is soiled or wet is highly recommended

The contaminated professional clothing must not be in contact with the patients.

Work area

The entire dental team must ensure that the appropriate protocol for disinfection of all surfaces in the dental practice (in the treatment room and outside) and elements that have been in contact with the patient's oral cavity are observed.

The entire dental team must ensure that the ventilation protocols for the various rooms of the dental practice, including the prosthetic laboratory, are respected.