

COVID-19 and Dentistry: Enhancing Knowledge and Attitudes towards Infections, Immunity, and Vaccination

Ajinkya M Pawar ¹ and Mohmed Isaqali Karobari ^{2,3,4,*}

¹ Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics, Nair Hospital Dental College, Mumbai 400008, Maharashtra, India

² Department of Restorative Dentistry & Endodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Puthisastra, Phnom Penh 12211, Cambodia

³ Department of Conservative Dentistry, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya 60131, East Java, Indonesia

⁴ Center for Transdisciplinary Research, Saveetha Dental College, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Science, Saveetha University, Chennai 600077, Tamil Naidu, India

* Correspondence: dr.isaq@gmail.com; Tel.: +60-11-5763-5786

Keywords: SARS-CoV-2; dental; dentistry; dental education; medical education; knowledge; vaccines; COVID-19; vaccine acceptance; vaccine hesitancy; COVID-19 vaccine; pandemic; prevention; transmission; immunity; dental clinics; dental anxiety; dental professionals; impact on practice; disease transmission

Citation: Pawar, A.M.; Karobari, M.I. COVID-19 and Dentistry: Enhancing Knowledge and Attitudes towards Infections, Immunity, and Vaccination. *Vaccines* **2023**, *11*, 1158. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines11071158>

Received: 15 June 2023

Accepted: 21 June 2023

Published: 26 June 2023



Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every part of human life, including healthcare systems, and presented societies with hitherto unheard-of concerns. Due to the nature of dental practice and its proximity to the respiratory tract, dentistry has been considerably influenced compared to other healthcare professions. The dental care community must be knowledgeable, proactive, and aware of new information regarding COVID-19, infections, immunity, and vaccines as we manage this problem [1,2]. This Special Issue seeks to illuminate the many facets of COVID-19 and dentistry, fostering a deeper comprehension of the difficulties encountered and offering perspectives on the best practices to reduce hazards.

Dental professionals now face new challenges due to COVID-19, forcing them to reaffirm their understanding of the virus and how it spreads. Implementing efficient infection control procedures in dental settings requires an understanding of the most recent scientific developments and recommendations [3]. By giving a thorough overview of COVID-19 and its implications for dentistry, this Special Issue strives to address the knowledge gap. We want to provide dental practitioners with the information they need to adjust their practices to the changing pandemic scenario through articles grounded in research and expert analysis.

When it comes to infection control, attitudes have a significant impact on behaviour, and dental workers are no exception. We hope to encourage a positive attitude change by emphasizing the need to follow safety guidelines, use personal protective equipment, and follow strict sterilization and disinfection procedures. In addition to protecting the dental team, stressing the value of maintaining a safe atmosphere gives confidence to people seeking dental care during these trying times [4].

The production and application of vaccines have become essential tools in our war against the virus as the world struggles to contain the COVID-19 epidemic. Dental professionals must be thoroughly aware of the immune response and the function of vaccinations in the fight against COVID-19 in order to practice dentistry [5]. In this special edition, we examine the facts underlying immunization and dispel common misconceptions.

The significance of a unified stance in the face of a global health catastrophe has been highlighted by COVID-19. Dental workers must keep abreast of the most recent advancements in COVID-19 research, infection control techniques, and vaccine tactics in order to practice dentistry effectively. This Special Issue is a tool to broaden understanding, mould attitudes, and inspire action. We can all help create a safer environment for patients and practitioners by arming dental professionals with evidence-based knowledge [6].

A fundamental change in knowledge, attitudes, and practices is now necessary as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic, which has completely altered the dental industry. The important elements of infections, immunity, and vaccination are highlighted in this Special Issue, which is focused on COVID-19 and dentistry. We can improve the safety and wellbeing of the dental team and their patients by educating dental workers on the relevant information and encouraging a positive attitude. Let us use this chance to fortify our community's reaction to COVID-19 and pave the way to a healthier future.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

1. Basheer, S.N.; Vinothkumar, T.S.; Albar, N.H.M.; Karobari, M.I.; Renugalakshmi, A.; Bokhari, A.; Peeran, S.W.; Peeran, S.A.; Alhadri, L.M.; Tadakamadla, S.K. Knowledge of COVID-19 infection guidelines among the dental health care professionals of Jazan Region, Saudi Arabia. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **2022**, *19*, 2034. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19042034>.
2. Shinde, O.; Pawar, A.M.; Banga, K.S.; Atram, J.; Wahjuningrun, D.A. Endodontic emergencies in Mumbai City during COVID-19 lockdown and different phases of unlock. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* **2021**, *18*, 7314. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18147314>.
3. Naveed, M.; Ali, U.; Karobari, M.I.; Ahmed, N.; Mohamed, R.N.; Abullais, S.S.; Kader, M.A.; Marya, A.; Messina, P.; Scardina, G.A. A Vaccine construction against COVID-19-associated mucormycosis contrived with immunoinformatics-based scavenging of potential Mucoralean Epitopes. *Vaccines* **2022**, *10*, 664. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10050664>.
4. Taneja, P.; Marya, C.M.; Kashyap, P.; Kataria, S.; Nagpal, R.; Karobari, M.I.; Marya, A. Knowledge and Acceptance of the COVID-19 Vaccine for COVID-19 Disease Prevention among the Indian Population: A Mixed-Method Study. *Vaccines* **2022**, *10*, 1605. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10101605>.
5. Acquaro, A.; Brusca, G.; Casella, S.; Cumbo, E.M.; Della Valle, A.; Karobari, M.I.; Marino, G.; Marya, A.; Messina, P.; Scardina, G.A.; et al. Evaluation of the Oral Microcirculation in Patients Undergoing Anti COVID-19 Vaccination: A Preliminary Study. *Vaccines* **2022**, *10*, 1978. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10111978>.
6. Rao, L.N.; Shetty, A.; Senthilkumar, P.L.; Rao, P.K.J.; Shetty, H.; Shetty, S.K.; Doddawad, V.G.; Natarajan, S.; Pawar, A.M.; Baliga, M.S.; et al. Apprehensions and Optimism among Dental Professionals during the COVID-19 Pandemic—A Nationwide Cross-Sectional Evaluation. *Vaccines* **2022**, *10*, 2081. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10122081>.

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.