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Prevention of cross contamination in the area of infection control procedures in dental laboratory and clinic

Mohamed Khaled Ahmed Azzam
Ministry of National Guard, Saudi Arabia

Introduction & Aim: This article focuses mainly on the prevention, communication, education and professional development in the area of safety and infection control procedures in dental clinics and laboratories, to assist both dental health providers and technicians to assume proper safety measures and avoiding cross infection to patients and colleagues.

Methodology: Dental clinics, procedures and instruments in the laboratory liable to cross contamination were test run using culture sensitivity tests on blood agar and Mc.Conkey mediums in addition to swabs on monthly bases as for the following: 1-Clinics and laboratory air environment was tested. 2-Alginate impressions, brushes, ragged wheels, pumice and lathes were tested. 3-The laboratory better operated as a "Clean Dental Laboratory" not "Standard Dental Laboratory".

Results: Gram negative pathogens as Klebsiella and fungal infection as well as commensals (Staph. albicans) were present. By proper suction system in the clinics and laboratory and regular air-conditioning filters cleaning fungal growth were avoided. Virkon 2% as a surface disinfectant and instruments soaked for 24 hours were used to eradicate pathogenic and non-pathogenic bacteria. Presept half gram tablets diluted in half liter of water sprayed, wrapped and left for 10 minutes on incoming material to the laboratory as impressions, bite blocks; face-bows crowns also eradicated the pathogenic and non-pathogenic organisms.

Conclusion: The infection control measures should be taken very seriously for all patients and dental personnel for a safer, healthier and better life.

Biography

Mohamed Khaled Ahmed Azzam is an Associate Professor and a Consultant Removable Prosthodontist. He is also the Departmental Academic and Intern coordinator, member of the Dental Laboratory for Quality Improvement Committee. He is the Deputy of the Department Quality Control Champion and Clinical supervisor of Saudi board dental students and dental interns at King Abdul-Aziz medical City, Dental services, Western Region, The ministry of National Guard, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He completed his Masters' and Doctorate degrees from Cairo University, Egypt and a Clinical Certificate in Prosthodontics from Tuft's Dental School, Boston, USA in 1991. He has also published papers in reputed journals and presented many presentations locally in Saudi Arabia and many other internationally.

kazzam22@hotmail.com

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