

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF ENDODONTICS PGS ON COVID 19: A QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT

Background: The viral disease Covid 19 which is caused due to corona virus mainly affects the respiratory system. It was first identified in China at Wuhan province. The Endodontics are more prone to get infected from this disease as they are in close face to face contact with patient while doing treatment. There are also chances of spreading infection of this disease by exposure of Endodontics to saliva, blood and the other body fluids. The spread of infection can be controlled by dental education, giving adequate knowledge to everyone regarding the disease and suggesting various preventive procedure and treatment protocol. **Aim:** The aim of the study was to

analyze the knowledge, attitude, awareness of Covid -19 among Endodontics PGS. **Materials and Methods:** The question list was prepared and divided into four sections and given to 200 Endodontics PGS on online data. The data response of all were taken and tabulated. **Result:** The result of the study stated that there was significant awareness and knowledge of Covid 19 among Endodontics PGS. They should follow all the protocols and take all preventive measures to avoid the spread of the disease. **Conclusion:** The study concluded that the PGs have knowledge and awareness about the Covid 19 and they will take all necessary precaution to prevent the spread of disease.

KEYWORDS: Covid 19, endodontics, knowledge, awareness, saliva, blood.

INTRODUCTION

The Wuhan city of Central China reported with patients suffering from pneumonia in late December 2019. Firstly the cases were related to the sea food market and the cause of it was unknown.^[1] As the lungs are affected, the broncho alveolar lavage sample was taken of patients suffering from pneumonia and genome sequencing was done.

According to Genome sequencing it was found that the virus causing pneumonia was closely related to bat SARS like CoV. From the genome sequencing CoV-Ra TG13 gene was detected in bat *Rhinolophus affinis*.

There was a study done by CSG (Coronavirus Study Group) of the ICTV (The International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses) and they found the new viral strain and they named this strain as CoronaVirus-19 (nCoV-19).^[2,3] It is a single stranded RNA virus belonging to Coronaviridae family and subfamily of Orthocoronavirinae.

The incubation period of this disease is from 4 days to 14 days.^[4] The ICTV then renamed the Corona Virus -19 as SARS-CoV-2.^[5] The transmission of this disease is from animals to humans, then further from human to human.^[6] This virus has three stages like SARS of 2002 like mild, moderate, severe.^[7] The symptoms seen in many of the patient as high fever, cough in early stage and severe stage respiratory distress.^[5]

There are some additional symptoms seen like nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle-joint pain, and loss of appetite. In severe condition, pneumonia, respiratory failure, kidney failure and sometimes death may occur.^[8]

Covid 19 is detected in the saliva of patient and also can be transmitted via droplets while speaking, coughing, sneezing, So dentist should be careful and take preventive measure to avoid spread and transmission of disease.^[9] On 11th February, 2020 the WHO declared that SARS-CoV-2 to be the cause of COVID-19 pandemic disease.^[10, 11, 12]

In this study, questions were given and the answers were tabulated to evaluate their general knowledge levels, attitudes, and awareness of COVID-19.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out with the sample size of 200 of Endodontics PGS and the questionnaires was sent.

Study tool

The questions were about the knowledge, awareness, prevention about COVID-19. The questions were in English language and consisted of four sections about the socio-demographic data, knowledge, awareness, and attitude towards COVID-19. The link was shared through email and the questions were uploaded online.

Statistical analysis

The collected responses was collected and analysed. A descriptive statistical analysis was done to describe the data included in the survey.

The percentage was calculated to describe the categorical data and were tabulated.

Table 1.

Age in years	Total No	Percentage	Male	Percentage	Female	Percentage
25-30	130	65	96	48	34	17
31-40	60	30	47	24	13	7
Above 41	10	5	7	4	3	2

Table 2: Knowledge about Covid -19.

Questions	Number	Percentage
1. Incubation period of Covid 19		
a. More than 3 days	165	82.5
b. Less than 3 days	23	11.5
c. 24 hrs	12	6
2. Symptoms of Covid 19		
a. fever	21	10.5
b. cough	16	8
c. Shortness of breath	18	9
d. all of above	145	72.5
3. Dangerous route of transmission of Covid 19		
a. Droplet	8	4
b. Saliva	19	9.5
c. Blood	11	5.5
d. All of above	162	81
4. Duration of vail of Covid 19 at room temperature		
a. 12 hrs	4	2
b. 24 hrs	17	8.5
c. 1-2 days	152	76
d. more than 2 days	27	13.5

Table 3: Preventive strategy for Covid 19.

Question	Number	Percentage
1. Do you have any screening instrument for Covid 19		
a. Yes	184	92
b. No	16	8
2. Do you have any questionnaire for patients		
a. Yes	178	89
b. No	13	6.5
c. Dont know	9	4.5
3. Do you follow dental triage		
a. Yes	67	33.5
b. No	89	44.5
c. Dont know	46	23

RESULTS

A total of 200 Endodontics PGS were included in the study, out of which 130 were male(65%) and 70 were female(35%). They were divided in three age group first from 25-30 years, second 31-40 years and third was above 41 years. In first age group(65%) more PGS were present where in third group(5%) very less PGS were present. According to genderwise more females and male were present in group 1 while less were present in group third. (Table1).

The questions regarding the knowledge and awareness were asked to the PGS, maximum number of PGS have given right answers, while some have given wrong answers and few have mentioned that there were unaware/don't know. (Table 2, 3).

DISCUSSION

According to the study by Yousef Khader *et al.*, assessed the knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding COVID-19 among dentists in Jordan.^[13] This study stated that predominant participants were aware about the symptoms, mode of transmission of COVID-19, is also similar to our study.

Osman Ata and Tuba Talo Yildirim carried out the study and the results of their study were similar to our study.^[14]

K. S. Sethna Muth Lakshmi have a done study on dental professional while our study was done with Endodontics PGS, the results weresimilar that all have knowledge, awareness and prevention measures are taken to prevent the spread of this dreadful disease.^[15]

CONCLUSION

The endodontics PGS are at high risk of exposure to dreadful disease of Covid 19. So everyone should take preventive measures to stop the spread of infection. We should have proper knowledge and see that if any symptoms are seen in the patients take all necessary precautions to prevent from disease like using PPE kits, hand sanitization etc.

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