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RESEARCH ARTICLE

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS ABOUT INFECTION CONTROL AMONG DENTAL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To asses the knowledge, attitude and awareness about infection control among dental students.
Objective: To asses the knowledge about infection control of the dental student in order to evaluate the attitude and awareness about infection control among dental students using various parameters.
Back Ground: Infection is the invasion of an organism's body tissues by disease-causing agents, their multiplication, and the reaction of host tissues to these organisms and the toxins they produce. Infection control is the discipline concerned with preventing nosocomial or healthcare-associated infection, a practical (rather than academic) sub-discipline of epidemiology. Hence infection control plays an important role in dental hospitals and awareness about it can access the quality of treatments given.
Reason for the project: To evaluate the knowledge, attitude and awareness of dental students about infection control to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and to assure quality dental treatment.

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INTRODUCTION

Infection is a major problem for health care systems in many countries (Al-Omari and Al-Dwairi, 2005). Infection control has gained much attention especially in dentistry after introduction of HIV infection in 1980s, and reports of contamination of six patients by a dentist (Melo and GontijoFilho, 2000). Infections may be transmitted in the dental operatory through several routes, including direct contact with blood, oral uids, or other secretions; indirect contact with contaminated instruments, operatory equipment, or environmental surfaces; or contact with airborne contaminants present in either droplet splatter or aerosols of oral and respiratory fluid (Sofola and Uti, 2008; Emir Yüzbasioglu *et al*., 2009) In the late 1970s, a study found that dentists were three times more likely than the general population to contract hepatitis B. (FaudH Al-Moherat *et al*., 2002) We conceptualized this study with an objective to evaluate the knowledge, attitude and awareness about infection control among dental students of Saveetha Dental College.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was a cross-sectional study, which utilises a well-structured and modified questionnaire from other similar questionnaires. This study was conducted among the clinical students of saveetha dental college. The questionnaire consisted of 10 multiple choice questions, all the questions aimed at accessing the knowledge, awareness and attitude about infection control among dental students.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From this study is was found that 96% of dental students have been vaccinated for hepatitis B. 98% of the students change gloves in between patients 91% of the students always wear gloves, masks and head cap and 9% of the students wear it sometimes. Instrument sterilisation has been done by 75% of the students after every procedure and 25% of the students sterilise the instruments at the end of each day. 97% of the students wash their before and after patient examination whereas 3% of the students don't. It was also found that 100% of the students changed their lab coat if it was visibility contaminated. Disinfection of dental chair, clinic and dental office was thought of as a requirement by 100% of the dental students. 93% of the dental students disinfect their dental impression whereas 7% do not. 98% of the students think that isolation is important in infection control, and 2% think that it is not important. 88% of students prefer autoclave method of sterilisation, 6% prefer hot air oven, 3% prefer chemical sterilisation and 3% opt for others.

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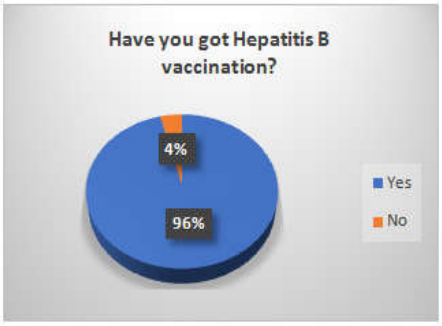

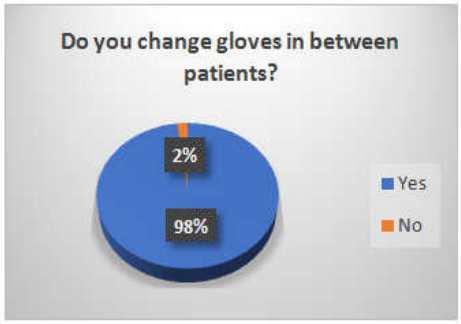

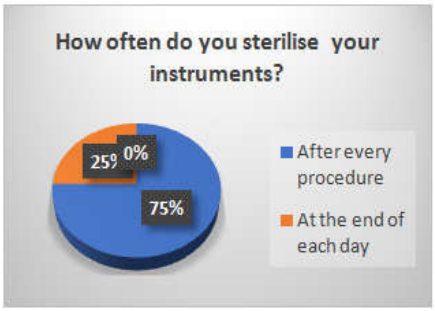

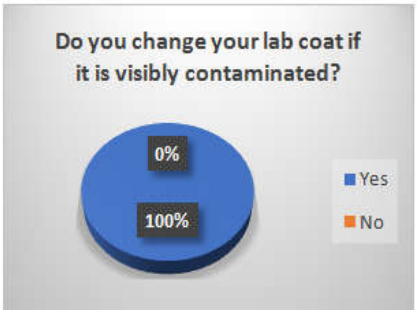

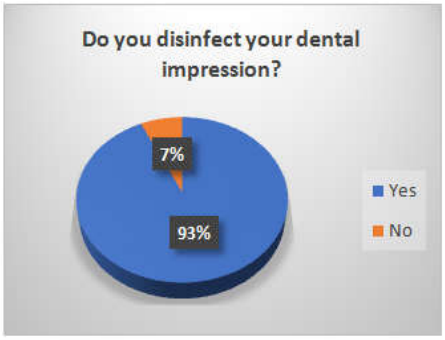

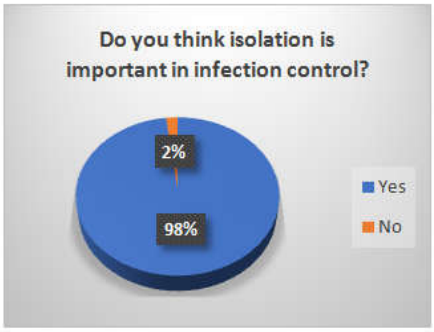

Conclusion

The rate of using personal protection devices and observing necessary procedures for infection control was consistent with the accepted standards. To further improve the conditions, education should be provided and infection control subjects should be emphasised as a priority of academic curriculum.

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