

Original Research Article

Association of Stress and Infection Control Protocol; A Cross-Sectional Study among Dental Students

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Introduction: Occupational stress has been a hot topic among dental professionals worldwide and it has impacted their clinical performance as well. Maintenance of infection control protocol is an important component of dental business, which enhances its significance in multiple folds. **Materials and methods:** Target population included dental students from different levels including under and post graduate from Riyadh city. A total number of 500 students were questioned by questionnaire being distributed through social media including Facebook and Whatsapp. **Results:** 66% of them are females and 34% males. According to the distribution of participants on the basis of their academic years, this shows that 35% students belong to 4th year, 21% to 5th year, 9% to 6th year and 12% from postgraduate courses. **Conclusions:** There is a positive correlation between high stress and low level of infection control knowledge and attitude.

Keywords: Stress, Infection control, Dental students.

INTRODUCTION

A person's behavior is influenced by his/her mental state. Stress is one of the most common psychological disturbances that affect the quality of one's life. Stress is associated with disturbed neuroendocrine mechanisms, which may result from external stimuli affecting the person. These could be related to family problems, relationship issues, academic or professional failures and post traumatic stress disorder (Fink, 2016).

This study is about stress among dental professionals, who may undergo stressful situations during their daily routine. These may be associated with fearful patients or professional frictions. Work load that is unbearable or challenging to manage is also one of the common reasons behind stress among dentists. Lack of dental skills or qualification may also contribute towards the stressful situation for a dentist (Fabian et al, 2016; Dehnad et al, 2016).

Infection control is the most important step in making the business of dentistry successful in the long run. A dental practice is known for its cleanliness and maintenance of proper infection control protocol. A dentist is the one who is responsible to do the above-mentioned tasks, which adds to the already busy and stressful routine. However, being occupied does not reduce the importance of infection control protocol (Sebastiani, Dym & Kirpalani, 2016).

Occupational stress has been a hot topic among dental professionals worldwide and it has impacted their clinical performance as well. Maintenance of infection control protocol is an important component of dental business, which enhances

its significance in multiple folds. Stress and anxiety among dental professionals have contributed in ignoring and lacking crucial aspects in dental practice including infection control (Johns & Jepsen, 2015). Dental professionals should keep themselves updated about the infection control protocols in order to keep the staff and patients safe from any occupational hazards. It has been observed among dentists of India that increased workload affects their professionalism and ability to maintain infection control protocol (Reddy et al, 2015).

Several components of infection control are of huge importance when working in a clinical environment. Vaccinations against infectious diseases, regular hand washing and knowledge of donning and removing of personal protective equipment are few of them. Dental professionals should be aware of these components in order to provide the patients with the safest possible dental treatment (Mohiuddin & Dawani, 2015). Failure of or ignoring infection control protocol may lead to accidents including sharps injuries, which are the most common source of infection spread among dentists (Ferreira et al, 2012).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding infection control during stressed situations among dental practitioners in Riyadh city. This study will serve as a needs

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assessment for the development of interventions to improve infection control practices during stress

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This is a cross sectional study, which utilized a closed ended questionnaire. Questionnaire was constructed online using Google forms. Questions included points related to demographics, educational level, and knowledge about infection control and stress levels.

The target population included dental students from different levels including under and postgraduate from Riyadh city. A total number of 500 students were questioned by questionnaire being distributed through social media including Facebook and Whatsapp.

Statistical analysis was done using SPSS version 19 in order to achieve descriptive as well as inferential results. Comparisons between groups were conducted using Chi-square test with the value of significance kept under 0.05.

RESULTS

Figure 1 shows the gender ratio of study participants, which reveals that 66% of them are females and 34% males. Figure 2 describes the distribution of participants on the basis of their academic years, which shows that 35% students belong to 4th year, 21% to 5th year, 9% to 6th year and 12% from postgraduate courses. As far as age groups are concerned, 19% were 18-20 years, 34% were 21-23 years, 26% were 24-26 years, 12% were 27-29 years and 8% were 30+ years.

Tables below show the comparison of the survey responses on the basis of gender, dentistry level and age groups achieved by Chi-square test. Furthermore, correlation of stress and infection control protocol was also tabulated after analyzing the data using Pearson's Correlation.

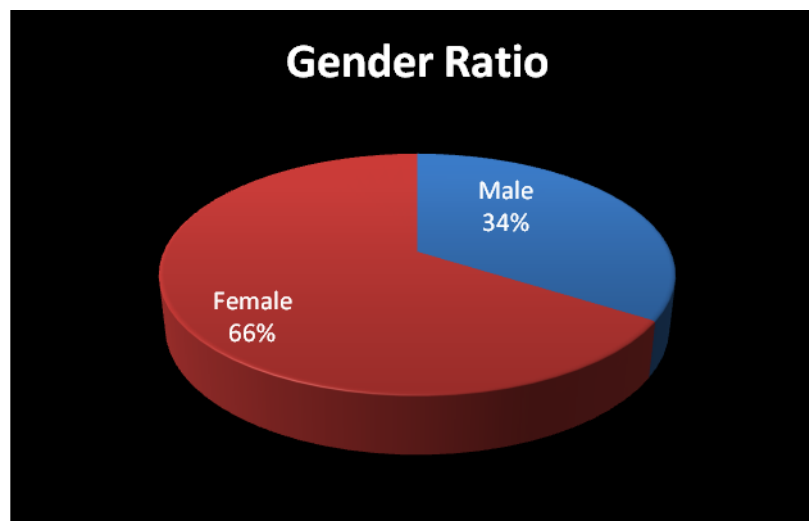


Figure 1: Gender ratio of study participants

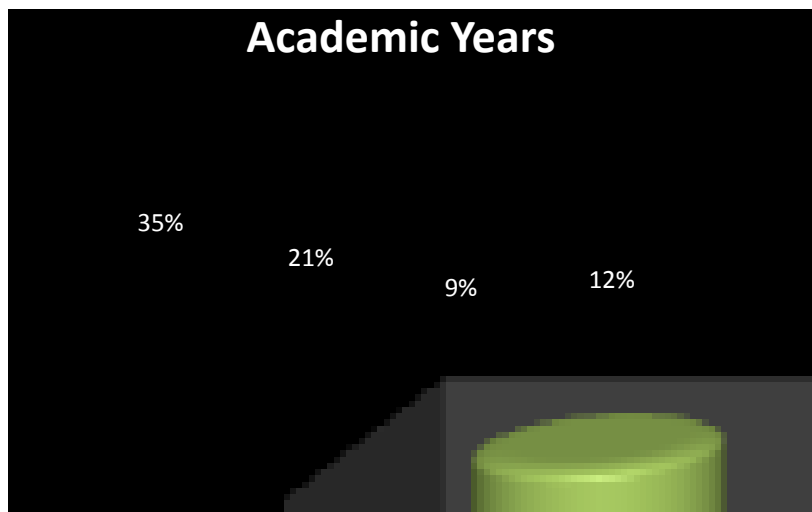


Figure 2: Distribution of students on the basis of academic years

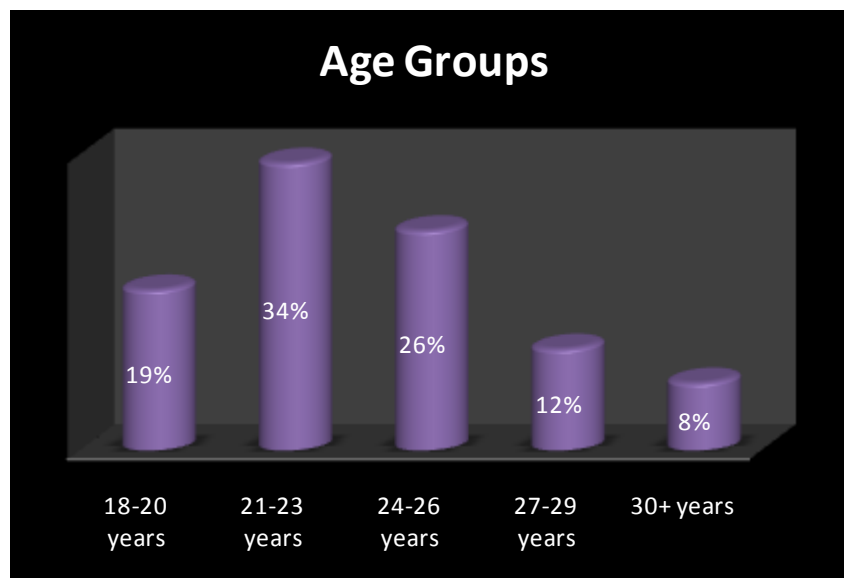


Figure 3: Distribution of study participants on the basis of age groups

Table 1: Comparison of survey responses on the basis of gender

Questions	Males	Females	p-value
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?	Yes: 31% No: 27% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 28%	Yes: 25% No: 28% I don't know: 24% Yes, sometimes: 24%	0.053
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?	Yes: 58% No: 14% I don't know: 16% Yes, sometimes: 12%	Yes: 50% No: 4% I don't know: 36% Yes, sometimes: 9%	0.000
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?	Yes: 49% No: 17% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 20%	Yes: 47% No: 8% I don't know: 20% Yes, sometimes: 26%	0.006
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?	Yes: 28% No: 31% I don't know: 16% Yes, sometimes: 25%	Yes: 17% No: 20% I don't know: 19% Yes, sometimes: 44%	0.000
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?	Yes: 36% No: 20% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 30%	Yes: 35% No: 7% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 44%	0.000
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?	Yes: 35% No: 14% I don't know: 20% Yes, sometimes: 31%	Yes: 25% No: 10% I don't know: 11% Yes, sometimes: 54%	0.000
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?	Yes: 53% No: 15% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 18%	Yes: 40% No: 21% I don't know: 8% Yes, sometimes: 31%	0.000
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?	Yes: 26% No: 42% I don't know: 16% Yes, sometimes: 15%	Yes: 16% No: 38% I don't know: 10% Yes, sometimes: 36%	0.000
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?	Yes: 51% No: 18% I don't know: 15% Yes, sometimes: 17%	Yes: 57% No: 6% I don't know: 9% Yes, sometimes: 29%	0.000
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?	Yes: 55% No: 14% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 17%	Yes: 58% No: 7% I don't know: 7% Yes, sometimes: 28%	0.001
Is it mandatory to clean and	Yes: 59%	Yes: 52%	

disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?	No: 19% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 8%	No: 6% I don't know: 31% Yes, sometimes: 11%	0.000
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?	Yes: 33% No: 29% I don't know: 21% Yes, sometimes: 17%	Yes: 34% No: 28% I don't know: 29% Yes, sometimes: 9%	0.023
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?	Yes: 63% No: 18% I don't know: 11% Yes, sometimes: 8%	Yes: 81% No: 7% I don't know: 6% Yes, sometimes: 6%	0.000
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?	Yes: 48% No: 16% I don't know: 29% Yes, sometimes: 6%	Yes: 40% No: 5% I don't know: 52% Yes, sometimes: 3%	0.000
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?	Yes: 22% No: 37% I don't know: 32% Yes, sometimes: 9%	Yes: 9% No: 34% I don't know: 54% Yes, sometimes: 3%	0.000
Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?	Yes: 51% No: 14% I don't know: 20% Yes, sometimes: 15%	Yes: 42% No: 8% I don't know: 29% Yes, sometimes: 22%	0.008
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?	Yes: 36% No: 24% I don't know: 24% Yes, sometimes: 17%	Yes: 46% No: 18% I don't know: 27% Yes, sometimes: 10%	0.021
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 23% Run to closest physician: 29% Scrub the wound: 14% Let it bleed while washing: 34%	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 21% Run to closest physician: 19% Scrub the wound: 33% Let it bleed while washing: 27%	0.000
In the last month, how often have you been upset because of something that happened unexpectedly?	Never: 19% Almost never: 11% Sometimes: 31% Fairly often: 24% Often: 15%	Never: 11% Almost never: 10% Sometimes: 27% Fairly often: 11% Often: 41%	0.000
In the last month, how often have you felt that you were unable to control the important things in your life?	Never: 17% Almost never: 14% Sometimes: 40% Fairly often: 15% Often: 14%	Never: 19% Almost never: 15% Sometimes: 28% Fairly often: 10% Often: 28%	0.001
In the last month, how often have you felt nervous and "stressed"?	Never: 8% Almost never: 9% Sometimes: 37% Fairly often: 23% Often: 22%	Never: 6% Almost never: 13% Sometimes: 27% Fairly often: 16% Often: 38%	0.002
In the last month, how often have you felt confident about your ability to handle your personal problems?	Never: 9% Almost never: 14% Sometimes: 35% Fairly often: 23% Often: 19%	Never: 7% Almost never: 13% Sometimes: 31% Fairly often: 33% Often: 17%	0.261
In the last month, how often have you felt that things were going your way?	Never: 7% Almost never: 15% Sometimes: 35% Fairly often: 22% Often: 21%	Never: 5% Almost never: 11% Sometimes: 48% Fairly often: 17% Often: 18%	0.061
In the last month, how often have you found that you could not cope with all the things that you had to do?	Never: 13% Almost never: 15% Sometimes: 35% Fairly often: 20% Often: 18%	Never: 8% Almost never: 11% Sometimes: 38% Fairly often: 29% Often: 14%	0.063
In the last month, how often have you felt that you were on top of things?	Never: 6% Almost never: 14% Sometimes: 34% Fairly often: 18% Often: 29%	Never: 19% Almost never: 13% Sometimes: 37% Fairly often: 13% Often: 18%	0.000
In the last month, how often have you been angered because of things that were outside of your control?	Never: 10% Almost never: 13% Sometimes: 38% Fairly often: 16%	Never: 8% Almost never: 13% Sometimes: 29% Fairly often: 17%	0.111

In the last month, how often have you felt difficulties were piling up so high that you could not overcome them?	Often: 23% Never: 7% Almost never: 17% Sometimes: 38% Fairly often: 17% Often: 21%	Often: 34% Never: 8% Almost never: 11% Sometimes: 33% Fairly often: 30% Often: 18%	0.017
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Table 2: Comparison of survey responses on the basis of academic level

Questions	4 th year	5 th year	6 th year	Postgraduate	p-value
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?	Yes: 12% No: 41% I don't know: 39% Yes, sometimes: 9%	Yes: 37% No: 21% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 28%	Yes: 35% No: 9% I don't know: 7% Yes, sometimes: 49%	Yes: 48% No: 30% I don't know: 3% Yes, sometimes: 20%	0.000
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?	Yes: 21% No: 3% I don't know: 64% Yes, sometimes: 12%	Yes: 59% No: 10% I don't know: 15% Yes, sometimes: 16%	Yes: 88% No: 0% I don't know: 0% Yes, sometimes: 12%	Yes: 85% No: 8% I don't know: 5% Yes, sometimes: 2%	0.000
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?	Yes: 18% No: 6% I don't know: 32% Yes, sometimes: 44%	Yes: 52% No: 16% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 19%	Yes: 81% No: 2% I don't know: 5% Yes, sometimes: 12%	Yes: 68% No: 24% I don't know: 2% Yes, sometimes: 6%	0.000
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?	Yes: 10% No: 9% I don't know: 22% Yes, sometimes: 58%	Yes: 38% No: 25% I don't know: 18% Yes, sometimes: 19%	Yes: 21% No: 42% I don't know: 7% Yes, sometimes: 30%	Yes: 19% No: 56% I don't know: 2% Yes, sometimes: 23%	0.000
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?	Yes: 14% No: 5% I don't know: 21% Yes, sometimes: 60%	Yes: 49% No: 18% I don't know: 12% Yes, sometimes: 21%	Yes: 60% No: 5% I don't know: 0% Yes, sometimes: 35%	Yes: 59% No: 11% I don't know: 5% Yes, sometimes: 25%	0.000
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?	Yes: 11% No: 6% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 69%	Yes: 32% No: 22% I don't know: 17% Yes, sometimes: 29%	Yes: 42% No: 7% I don't know: 7% Yes, sometimes: 44%	Yes: 52% No: 11% I don't know: 8% Yes, sometimes: 29%	0.000
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?	Yes: 23% No: 34% I don't know: 9% Yes, sometimes: 34%	Yes: 49% No: 14% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 22%	Yes: 77% No: 2% I don't know: 0% Yes, sometimes: 21%	Yes: 77% No: 10% I don't know: 5% Yes, sometimes: 8%	0.000
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of	Yes: 12% No: 15% I don't know: 13%	Yes: 25% No: 46% I don't know: 17%	Yes: 28% No: 47% I don't know: 12%	Yes: 19% No: 58% I don't know: 3%	0.000

your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?	Yes, sometimes: 60%	Yes, sometimes: 12%	Yes, sometimes: 14%	Yes, sometimes: 19%	
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?	Yes: 51% No: 3% I don't know: 10% Yes, sometimes: 37%	Yes: 52% No: 16% I don't know: 16% Yes, sometimes: 15%	Yes: 79% No: 2% I don't know: 2% Yes, sometimes: 16%	Yes: 82% No: 11% I don't know: 3% Yes, sometimes: 3%	0.00
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?	Yes: 53% No: 5% I don't know: 9% Yes, sometimes: 33%	Yes: 59% No: 20% I don't know: 9% Yes, sometimes: 33%	Yes: 77% No: 7% I don't know: 0% Yes, sometimes: 16%	Yes: 85% No: 3% I don't know: 6% Yes, sometimes: 5%	0.00
Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?	Yes: 26% No: 6% I don't know: 51% Yes, sometimes: 17%	Yes: 58% No: 17% I don't know: 17% Yes, sometimes: 8%	Yes: 91% No: 0% I don't know: 2% Yes, sometimes: 7%	Yes: 85% No: 8% I don't know: 5% Yes, sometimes: 2%	0.00
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?	Yes: 46% No: 10% I don't know: 38% Yes, sometimes: 6%	Yes: 25% No: 33% I don't know: 33% Yes, sometimes: 10%	Yes: 12% No: 70% I don't know: 9% Yes, sometimes: 9%	Yes: 52% No: 31% I don't know: 6% Yes, sometimes: 11%	0.00
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?	Yes: 78% No: 7% I don't know: 5% Yes, sometimes: 10%	Yes: 63% No: 20% I don't know: 10% Yes, sometimes: 7%	Yes: 88% No: 0% I don't know: 0% Yes, sometimes: 12%	Yes: 89% No: 6% I don't know: 3% Yes, sometimes: 2%	0.00
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?	Yes: 13% No: 5% I don't know: 80% Yes, sometimes: 2%	Yes: 48% No: 13% I don't know: 29% Yes, sometimes: 10%	Yes: 67% No: 2% I don't know: 26% Yes, sometimes: 5%	Yes: 82% No: 8% I don't know: 10% Yes, sometimes: 0%	0.00
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?	Yes: 7% No: 13% I don't know: 78% Yes, sometimes: 2%	Yes: 17% No: 38% I don't know: 34% Yes, sometimes: 12%	Yes: 9% No: 56% I don't know: 3% Yes, sometimes: 2%	Yes: 19% No: 69% I don't know: 11% Yes, sometimes: 0%	0.00
Is it mandatory to document	Yes: 15% No: 5% I don't know:	Yes: 45% No: 19% I don't know:	Yes: 72% No: 0% I don't know:	Yes: 82% No: 10% I don't know:	0.00

patient blood borne pathogen exposure?	42% Yes, sometimes: 38%	19% Yes, sometimes: 17%	23% Yes, sometimes: 5%	5% Yes, sometimes: 3%	
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?	Yes: 42% No: 9% I don't know: 41% Yes, sometimes: 8%	Yes: 33% No: 25% I don't know: 23% Yes, sometimes: 20%	Yes: 56% No: 16% I don't know: 9% Yes, sometimes: 19%	Yes: 79% No: 13% I don't know: 5% Yes, sometimes: 3%	0.0 00
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 11% Run to closest physician: 33% Scrub the wound: 51% Let it bleed while washing: 5%	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 24% Run to closest physician: 23% Scrub the wound: 16% Let it bleed while washing: 37%	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 29% Run to closest physician: 12% Scrub the wound: 17% Let it bleed while washing: 43%	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 11% Run to closest physician: 3% Scrub the wound: 8% Let it bleed while washing: 77%	0.0 00
In the last month, how often have you been upset because of something that happened unexpectedly?	Never: 8% Almost never: 7% Sometimes: 11% Fairly often: 15% Often: 58%	Never: 16% Almost never: 13% Sometimes: 43% Fairly often: 16% Often: 13%	Never: 16% Almost never: 7% Sometimes: 63% Fairly often: 9% Often: 5%	Never: 11% Almost never: 19% Sometimes: 10% Fairly often: 37% Often: 3%	0.0 00
In the last month, how often have you felt that you were unable to control the important things in your life?	Never: 28% Almost never: 16% Sometimes: 7% Fairly often: 12% Often: 36%	Never: 10% Almost never: 20% Sometimes: 49% Fairly often: 12% Often: 10%	Never: 14% Almost never: 2% Sometimes: 65% Fairly often: 14% Often: 5%	Never: 31% Almost never: 8% Sometimes: 45% Fairly often: 13% Often: 3%	0.0 00
In the last month, how often have you felt nervous and "stressed"?	Never: 8% Almost never: 18% Sometimes: 18% Fairly often: 16% Often: 40%	Never: 7% Almost never: 10% Sometimes: 34% Fairly often: 20% Often: 30%	Never: 5% Almost never: 5% Sometimes: 58% Fairly often: 9% Often: 23%	Never: 5% Almost never: 6% Sometimes: 44% Fairly often: 39% Often: 6%	0.0 00
In the last month, how often have you felt confident about your ability to handle your personal problems?	Never: 8% Almost never: 13% Sometimes: 20% Fairly often: 43% Often: 16%	Never: 9% Almost never: 13% Sometimes: 45% Fairly often: 21% Often: 12%	Never: 5% Almost never: 7% Sometimes: 60% Fairly often: 23% Often: 5%	Never: 5% Almost never: 13% Sometimes: 32% Fairly often: 44% Often: 6%	0.0 00
In the last month, how often have you felt that things were going your way?	Never: 5% Almost never: 14% Sometimes: 49% Fairly often: 16% Often: 17%	Never: 6% Almost never: 16% Sometimes: 47% Fairly often: 22% Often: 9%	Never: 5% Almost never: 9% Sometimes: 63% Fairly often: 21% Often: 2%	Never: 10% Almost never: 11% Sometimes: 34% Fairly often: 25% Often: 20%	0.0 00
In the last	Never: 8%	Never: 9%	Never: 5%	Never: 25%	

month, how often have you found that you could not cope with all the things that you had to do?	Almost never: 12% Sometimes: 25% Fairly often: 42% Often: 13%	Almost never: 12% Sometimes: 51% Fairly often: 22% Often: 7%	Almost never: 5% Sometimes: 70% Fairly often: 21% Often: 0%	Almost never: 8% Sometimes: 44% Fairly often: 20% Often: 3%	0.00
In the last month, how often have you felt that you were on top of things?	Never: 32% Almost never: 14% Sometimes: 23% Fairly often: 13% Often: 18%	Never: 8% Almost never: 15% Sometimes: 41% Fairly often: 21% Often: 14%	Never: 6% Almost never: 12% Sometimes: 71% Fairly often: 12% Often: 0%	Never: 5% Almost never: 13% Sometimes: 40% Fairly often: 19% Often: 23%	0.00
In the last month, how often have you been angered because of things that were outside of your control?	Never: 6% Almost never: 10% Sometimes: 24% Fairly often: 13% Often: 47%	Never: 12% Almost never: 20% Sometimes: 30% Fairly often: 22% Often: 16%	Never: 5% Almost never: 12% Sometimes: 52% Fairly often: 21% Often: 10%	Never: 11% Almost never: 15% Sometimes: 40% Fairly often: 23% Often: 11%	0.00
In the last month, how often have you felt difficulties were piling up so high that you could not overcome them?	Never: 5% Almost never: 9% Sometimes: 20% Fairly often: 46% Often: 20%	Never: 13% Almost never: 16% Sometimes: 38% Fairly often: 21% Often: 11%	Never: 7% Almost never: 7% Sometimes: 70% Fairly often: 9% Often: 7%	Never: 15% Almost never: 16% Sometimes: 52% Fairly often: 13% Often: 5%	0.00

Table 3: Survey responses comparison on the basis of age groups

Questions	18-20 years	21-23 years	24-26 years	27-29 years	30+ years	p-value
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?	Yes: 13% No: 69% I don't know: 9% Yes, sometimes: 10%	Yes: 21% No: 15% I don't know: 39% Yes, sometimes: 24%	Yes: 34% No: 16% I don't know: 11% Yes, sometimes: 40%	Yes: 47% No: 13% I don't know: 16% Yes, sometimes: 24%	Yes: 34% No: 16% I don't know: 11% Yes, sometimes: 40%	0.000
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?	Yes: 18% No: 5% I don't know: 59% Yes, sometimes: 18%	Yes: 49% No: 6% I don't know: 36% Yes, sometimes: 9%	Yes: 76% No: 8% I don't know: 10% Yes, sometimes: 7%	Yes: 50% No: 13% I don't know: 23% Yes, sometimes: 15%	Yes: 85% No: 8% I don't know: 5% Yes, sometimes: 3%	0.000
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?	Yes: 12% No: 9%	Yes: 47% No: 7% I don't know:	Yes: 67% No: 8% I don't know:	Yes: 55% No: 18% I don't know:	Yes: 56% No: 33% I don't know:	0.000

	I don't know: 9%	32%	10%	13%	8%	
	Yes, sometimes: 69%	Yes, sometimes: 14%	Yes, sometimes: 14%	Yes, sometimes: 15%	Yes, sometimes: 3%	
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?	Yes: 13%	Yes: 24%	Yes: 27%	Yes: 23%	Yes: 5%	0.000
	No: 6%	No: 16%	No: 23%	No: 35%	No: 77%	
	I don't know: 9%	I don't know: 25%	I don't know: 17%	I don't know: 18%	I don't know: 10%	
	Yes, sometimes: 72%	Yes, sometimes: 35%	Yes, sometimes: 32%	Yes, sometimes: 24%	Yes, sometimes: 8%	
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?	Yes: 11%	Yes: 30%	Yes: 49%	Yes: 44%	Yes: 56%	0.000
	No: 8%	No: 12%	No: 9%	No: 18%	No: 13%	
	I don't know: 6%	I don't know: 22%	I don't know: 10%	I don't know: 16%	I don't know: 5%	
	Yes, sometimes: 74%	Yes, sometimes: 36%	Yes, sometimes: 32%	Yes, sometimes: 21%	Yes, sometimes: 26%	
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?	Yes: 8%	Yes: 25%	Yes: 39%	Yes: 35%	Yes: 46%	0.000
	No: 11%	No: 12%	No: 9%	No: 23%	No: 3%	
	I don't know: 9%	I don't know: 13%	I don't know: 14%	I don't know: 23%	I don't know: 15%	
	Yes, sometimes: 71%	Yes, sometimes: 51%	Yes, sometimes: 38%	Yes, sometimes: 19%	Yes, sometimes: 36%	
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?	Yes: 25%	Yes: 40%	Yes: 54%	Yes: 48%	Yes: 77%	0.000
	No: 57%	No: 7%	No: 8%	No: 21%	No: 8%	
	I don't know: 4%	I don't know: 12%	I don't know: 8%	I don't know: 23%	I don't know: 5%	
	Yes, sometimes: 14%	Yes, sometimes: 42%	Yes, sometimes: 31%	Yes, sometimes: 8%	Yes, sometimes: 10%	
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?	Yes: 18%	Yes: 17%	Yes: 20%	Yes: 18%	Yes: 31%	0.000
	No: 17%	No: 35%	No: 50%	No: 48%	No: 64%	
	I don't know: 9%	I don't know: 13%	I don't know: 15%	I don't know: 16%	I don't know: 0%	
	Yes, sometimes: 56%	Yes, sometimes: 36%	Yes, sometimes: 14%	Yes, sometimes: 18%	Yes, sometimes: 5%	
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?	Yes: 74%	Yes: 39%	Yes: 58%	Yes: 52%	Yes: 72%	0.000
	No: 4%	No: 9%	No: 11%	No: 16%	No: 13%	
	I don't know: 9%	I don't know: 10%	I don't know: 9%	I don't know: 19%	I don't know: 10%	
	Yes, sometimes: 13%	Yes, sometimes:	Yes, sometimes: 21%	Yes, sometimes:	Yes,	

		43%		13%	sometimes: 5%	
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?	Yes: 76%	Yes: 42%	Yes: 60%	Yes: 48%	Yes: 84%	0.000
	No: 6%	No: 10%	No: 6%	No: 19%	No: 5%	
	I don't know: 11%	I don't know: 7%	I don't know: 10%	I don't know: 15%	I don't know: 8%	
	Yes, sometimes: 7%	Yes, sometimes: 41%	Yes, sometimes: 24%	Yes, sometimes: 18%	Yes, sometimes: 3%	
Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?	Yes: 28%	Yes: 51%	Yes: 71%	Yes: 50%	Yes: 79%	0.000
	No: 8%	No: 8%	No: 8%	No: 26%	No: 8%	
	I don't know: 59%	I don't know: 26%	I don't know: 13%	I don't know: 13%	I don't know: 8%	
	Yes, sometimes: 4%	Yes, sometimes: 15%	Yes, sometimes: 8%	Yes, sometimes: 11%	Yes, sometimes: 5%	
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?	Yes: 71%	Yes: 23%	Yes: 21%	Yes: 26%	Yes: 44%	0.000
	No: 10%	No: 22%	No: 41%	No: 37%	No: 41%	
	I don't know: 13%	I don't know: 43%	I don't know: 22%	I don't know: 24%	I don't know: 5%	
	Yes, sometimes: 6%	Yes, sometimes: 12%	Yes, sometimes: 16%	Yes, sometimes: 13%	Yes, sometimes: 10%	
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?	Yes: 78%	Yes: 78%	Yes: 76%	Yes: 56%	Yes: 82%	0.002
	No: 6%	No: 8%	No: 12%	No: 21%	No: 10%	
	I don't know: 9%	I don't know: 5%	I don't know: 5%	I don't know: 19%	I don't know: 5%	
	Yes, sometimes: 6%	Yes, sometimes: 9%	Yes, sometimes: 7%	Yes, sometimes: 3%	Yes, sometimes: 3%	
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?	Yes: 14%	Yes: 36%	Yes: 58%	Yes: 55%	Yes: 72%	0.000
	No: 5%	No: 8%	No: 5%	No: 26%	No: 8%	
	I don't know: 79%	I don't know: 53%	I don't know: 30%	I don't know: 16%	I don't know: 21%	
	Yes, sometimes: 2%	Yes, sometimes: 4%	Yes, sometimes: 8%	Yes, sometimes: 3%	Yes, sometimes: 0%	
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?	Yes: 9%	Yes: 10%	Yes: 17%	Yes: 26%	Yes: 10%	0.000
	No: 9%	No: 31%	No: 44%	No: 50%	No: 64%	
	I don't know: 78%	I don't know: 54%	I don't know: 35%	I don't know: 18%	I don't know: 23%	
	Yes, sometimes: 3%	Yes, sometimes: 6%	Yes, sometimes: 5%	Yes, sometimes: 6%	Yes, sometimes: 3%	

Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?	Yes: 13% No: 8% I don't know: 14% Yes, sometimes: 66%	Yes: 38% No: 6% I don't know: 46% Yes, sometimes: 10%	Yes: 65% No: 10% I don't know: 46% Yes, sometimes: 10%	Yes: 48% No: 23% I don't know: 21% Yes, sometimes: 8%	Yes: 82% No: 5% I don't know: 8% Yes, sometimes: 5%	0.000
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?	Yes: 64% No: 11% I don't know: 16% Yes, sometimes: 9%	Yes: 24% No: 20% I don't know: 45% Yes, sometimes: 11%	Yes: 39% No: 31% I don't know: 16% Yes, sometimes: 14%	Yes: 45% No: 13% I don't know: 23% Yes, sometimes: 19%	Yes: 77% No: 8% I don't know: 10% Yes, sometimes: 5%	0.000
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 14% Run to closest physician: 20% Scrub the wound: 63% Let it bleed while washing: 4%	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 23% Run to closest physician: 30% Scrub the wound: 26% Let it bleed while washing: 22%	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 30% Run to closest physician: 19% Scrub the wound: 12% Let it bleed while washing: 38%	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 19% Run to closest physician: 23% Scrub the wound: 18% Let it bleed while washing: 40%	Suck wound then rub with alcohol: 15% Run to closest physician: 8% Scrub the wound: 3% Let it bleed while washing: 74%	0.000
In the last month, how often have you been upset because of something that happened unexpectedly?	Never: 9% Almost never: 4% Sometimes: 11% Fairly often: 15% Often: 61%	Never: 15% Almost never: 9% Sometimes: 24% Fairly often: 13% Often: 39%	Never: 9% Almost never: 15% Sometimes: 35% Fairly often: 16% Often: 24%	Never: 26% Almost never: 15% Sometimes: 48% Fairly often: 6% Often: 5%	Never: 18% Almost never: 5% Sometimes: 34% Fairly often: 39% Often: 3%	0.000
In the last month, how often have you felt that you were unable to control the important things in your life?	Never: 5% Almost never: 2% Sometimes: 13% Fairly often: 16% Often: 65%	Never: 8% Almost never: 25% Sometimes: 26% Fairly often: 15% Often: 26%	Never: 6% Almost never: 8% Sometimes: 34% Fairly often: 16% Often: 36%	Never: 5% Almost never: 8% Sometimes: 58% Fairly often: 16% Often: 13%	Never: 5% Almost never: 8% Sometimes: 58% Fairly often: 16% Often: 13%	0.000
In the last month, how often have you felt nervous and "stressed"?	Never: 3% Almost never: 5% Sometimes: 11%	Never: 10% Almost never: 17% Sometimes:	Never: 10% Almost never: 10% Sometimes:	Never: 5% Almost never: 26% Sometimes:	Never: 3% Almost never: 5% Sometimes:	0.000

	Fairly often: 65%	36%	39%	48%	28%	
	Often: 16%	Fairly often: 19%	Fairly often: 17%	Fairly often: 10%	Fairly often: 59%	
		Often: 18%	Often: 24%	Often: 11%	Often: 5%	
In the last month, how often have you felt confident about your ability to handle your personal problems?	Never: 3%	Never: 10%	Never: 10%	Never: 5%	Never: 3%	0.000
	Almost never: 5%	Almost never: 17%	Almost never: 10%	Almost never: 26%	Almost never: 5%	
	Sometimes: 11%	Sometimes: 36%	Sometimes: 39%	Sometimes: 48%	Sometimes: 28%	
	Fairly often: 65%	Fairly often: 19%	Fairly often: 17%	Fairly often: 10%	Fairly often: 59%	
	Often: 16%	Often: 18%	Often: 24%	Often: 11%	Often: 5%	
In the last month, how often have you felt that things were going your way?	Never: 4%	Never: 5%	Never: 7%	Never: 6%	Never: 5%	0.030
	Almost never: 3%	Almost never: 18%	Almost never: 12%	Almost never: 21%	Almost never: 5%	
	Sometimes: 60%	Sometimes: 39%	Sometimes: 42%	Sometimes: 39%	Sometimes: 39%	
	Fairly often: 18%	Fairly often: 20%	Fairly often: 16%	Fairly often: 19%	Fairly often: 26%	
	Often: 15%	Often: 19%	Often: 23%	Often: 15%	Often: 24%	
In the last month, how often have you found that you could not cope with all the things that you had to do?	Never: 4%	Never: 9%	Never: 9%	Never: 13%	Never: 28%	0.000
	Almost never: 2%	Almost never: 18%	Almost never: 9%	Almost never: 21%	Almost never: 5%	
	Sometimes: 15%	Sometimes: 40%	Sometimes: 44%	Sometimes: 48%	Sometimes: 36%	
	Fairly often: 64%	Fairly often: 18%	Fairly often: 16%	Fairly often: 11%	Fairly often: 26%	
	Often: 16%	Often: 15%	Often: 22%	Often: 7%	Often: 5%	
In the last month, how often have you felt that you were on top of things?	Never: 51%	Never: 8%	Never: 5%	Never: 3%	Never: 5%	0.000
	Almost never: 5%	Almost never: 17%	Almost never: 13%	Almost never: 19%	Almost never: 8%	
	Sometimes: 14%	Sometimes: 42%	Sometimes: 44%	Sometimes: 42%	Sometimes: 31%	
	Fairly often: 7%	Fairly often: 15%	Fairly often: 15%	Fairly often: 13%	Fairly often: 31%	
	Often: 23%	Often: 18%	Often: 24%	Often: 23%	Often: 26%	
In the last month, how often have you been angered because of things that were outside of your control?	Never: 4%	Never: 10%	Never: 7%	Never: 10%	Never: 15%	0.000
	Almost never: 5%	Almost never: 16%	Almost never: 15%	Almost never: 19%	Almost never: 0%	
	Sometimes: 8%	Sometimes: 34%	Sometimes: 36%	Sometimes: 53%	Sometimes: 38%	
	Fairly often: 9%					

	Often: 73%	Fairly often: 20%	Fairly often: 18%	Fairly often: 11%	Fairly often: 23%	
		Often: 20%	Often: 24%	Often: 6%	Often: 6%	
In the last month, how often have you felt difficulties were piling up so high that you could not overcome them?	Never: 4%	Never: 10%	Never: 7%	Never: 5%	Never: 13%	0.000
	Almost never: 6%	Almost never: 12%	Almost never: 16%	Almost never: 19%	Almost never: 15%	
	Sometimes: 13%	Sometimes: 36%	Sometimes: 36%	Sometimes: 47%	Sometimes: 54%	
	Fairly often: 56%	Fairly often: 22%	Fairly often: 22%	Fairly often: 21%	Fairly often: 13%	
	Often: 21%	Often: 21%	Often: 27%	Often: 8%	Often: 5%	

Table 4: Correlation between 'being upset during past month' and infection control protocol

Questions	In the last month, how often have you been upset because of something that happened unexpectedly?	Pearson's R
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?		.088
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?		.210
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?		.298
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?		.408
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?		.384
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?		.427
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?		.269
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?		.345
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?		.193
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?		.176
Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?		.293
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?		-.107
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?		-.089
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?		.245
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?		.305
Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?		.216
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?		-.029
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:		.024

Table 5: Correlation between 'unable to control things in life' and infection control protocol

Questions	In the last month, how often have you felt that you were unable to control the important things in your life?	Pearson's R
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?		.023
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?		.005
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?		.121
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?		.286
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?		.161
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?		.149
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?		-.044
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?		.059
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?		-.146
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?		-.155
Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?		-.052
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?		-.205
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?		-.096
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?		.005
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?		.119
Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?		.119
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?		-.149
Following a needle stick injury, your first response is to:		-.080

Table 6: Correlation between 'feeling nervous and stressed past month' and infection control protocol

Questions	In the last month, how often have you felt nervous and "stressed"?	Pearson's R
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?		-.047
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?		.014
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?		.101
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?		.213
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?		.152
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?		.148
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?		.010
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?		.105
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?		-.100
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?		-.094

Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?	-.045
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?	-.211
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?	-.121
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?	.035
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?	.169
Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?	.104
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?	-.121
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:	-.050

Table 7: Correlation between 'feeling confident in handling personal problems' and infection control protocol

Questions	In the last month, how often have you felt confident about your ability to handle your personal problems?	Pearson's R
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?		-.048
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?		-.083
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?		.045
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?		.209
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?		.195
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?		.144
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?		.061
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?		.013
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?		.031
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?		.010
Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?		-.059
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?		-.149
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?		-.111
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?		.002
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?		.114
Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?		.003
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?		-.106
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:		-.091

Table 8: Correlation between 'inability of coping with things you do' and infection control protocol

Questions	In the last month, how often have you found that you could not cope with all the things that you had to do?	Pearson's R
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?		.069
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?		.020
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?		.141
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?		.252
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?		.211
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?		.229
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?		.158
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?		.109
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?		.119
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?		.065
Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?		.046
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?		-.071
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?		-.027
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?		.084
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?		.127
Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?		.064
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?		-.019
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:		-.181

Table 8: Correlation between 'feeling things going your way' and infection control protocol

Questions	In the last month, how often have you felt that things were going your way?	Pearson's R
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?		.038
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?		-.122
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?		-.016
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?		.146
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?		.112
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?		.114
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?		.134
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?		-.009
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?		.178
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?		.176
Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?		

	-.040
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?	-.017
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?	-.064
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?	-.048
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?	.052
Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?	-.103
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?	.059
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:	-.136

Table 9: Correlation between 'feeling on top of things' and infection control protocol

Questions	In the last month, how often have you felt that you were on top of things?	Pearson's R
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?		.091
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?		-.203
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?		-.238
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?		-.027
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?		-.072
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?		-.048
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?		.109
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?		-.226
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?		.231
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?		.210
Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?		-.161
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?		.147
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?		.044
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?		-.177
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?		-.136
Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?		-.309
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?		.175
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:		-.166

Table 10: Correlation between 'angry with things outside control' and infection control protocol

Questions	In the last month, how often have you been angered because of things that were outside of your control?	Pearson's R
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?		.007
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?		.054
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?		.205
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?		.360
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?		.324
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?		.307
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?		.097
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?		.163
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?		-.041
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?		-.026
Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?		.072
Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?		-.232
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?		-.169
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?		.126
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?		.222
Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?		.205
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?		-.138
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:		-.057

Table 11: Correlation between 'not overcoming difficulties' and infection control protocol

Questions	In the last month, how often have you felt difficulties were piling up so high that you could not overcome them?	Pearson's R
Do you believe that you have enough knowledge concerning infection prevention?		.135
Can infectious diseases be transmitted during dental procedure?		.066
Is it mandatory to use personal protection tools during every dental procedure?		.171
Do you think dentists can reject treating a patient with a known infectious disease (Hepatitis, HIV, etc)?		.335
Do you think that dentists should always wear goggles during dental procedures?		.328
Is it mandatory for a patient to wear goggles?		.327
Do you believe that hands need to be washed after glove removal?		.255
Is it wise to walk beyond the perimeter of your dental clinic wearing your procedure gown?		.218
After logging in a note on the screen, do you think you must change your gloves?		.164
Do you change your gloves after receiving a phone call?		.167
Is it mandatory to clean and disinfect the impression before sending it to the laboratory?		.092

Can we leave extracted teeth, on the instrument tray?	-.044
Do we need to change the suction tip when it comes in contact with a contaminated surface?	-.080
Is there a difference between cold (spray) and heat (autoclave) sterilization of the air/ water syringe?	.152
Do you believe you can skip the proper sterilization of hand pieces (autoclave) and opt for cold sterilization in between different patients?	.260
Is it mandatory to document patient blood borne pathogen exposure?	.147
Do you know the procedure to follow after needle stick or sharps injury?	.063
Following a needlestick injury, your first response is to:	-.111

DISCUSSION

We aimed to determine the level of knowledge regarding infection control and its association with perceived stress among dental students. Table 1 shows the relationship between gender and infection control with stress. It can be noted from the findings that there was a statistically significant difference between males and females when inquired about infectious diseases being transmitted during a dental procedure, mandatory to use personal protection tools, wearing goggles, washing hands, walking beyond the perimeters and many more variables. It was observed that the male students showed better knowledge towards the infection control protocol as compared to the females. However, a similar study done in Sana'a University revealed no significant difference between males and females (Halboub et al, 2015).

We also compared our study findings on the basis of academic years of dental students. We found highly significant comparisons where the senior dental students revealed better knowledge and attitude towards the infection control protocol as compared to the junior students. Similar findings were observed in another study conducted in Saudi Arabia, which revealed that the sixth year students exhibited a better level of attitude towards infection control (Al-Maweri et al, 2015). Furthermore, older aged students also reported a better level of knowledge as compared to younger students. However, no other study was found which compared the knowledge and attitude on the basis of age of participants.

An overall positive correlation was found when compared the participants' stress level during the past month with their knowledge and attitude towards infection control protocol. When inquired about feeling unable to control important things in life, a negative correlation was observed. Feeling nervous was also negatively associated with infection control. Confidence level was positively correlated with the infection control protocol. The overall positive correlation is observed in this study when relating high stress with low infection control maintenance. Similar findings were observed by a study conducted in Korea (Jang & Her, 2015).

CONCLUSIONS

It can be concluded from the findings that male students showed better knowledge and attitude towards the infection control protocol. Higher level students revealed better attitudes as compared to lower level students. There is a positive correlation between high stress and low level of infection control knowledge and attitude.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest among the authors.

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