

Management of fluorosis using resin infiltration

Abstract

Dental fluorosis is a form of hypomineralisation, which is caused by ingestion of excess amounts of fluoride during enamel formation. Fluorosis can manifest as faint, white horizontal lines running across the surfaces of the teeth, diffuse white opacities, brown staining, or pitting. Resin infiltration (Icon; DMG, Germany) can be used to treat mild to moderate forms of fluorosis yielding a more homogenous colour of the tooth. This case report is about a 37-year-old patient presenting with moderate fluorosis, which was treated with tooth whitening and resin infiltration to achieve aesthetic results.

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Dr Fahad Khan DMD MFDS RCPS (Glasg)

MSc Restorative Dentistry
Dentist with special interest in restorative dentistry and clinical supervisor, Dublin Dental University Hospital

Saman Ashfaque

Dental student at Dublin Dental University Hospital

Corresponding author: Dr Fahad Khan, Grange Clinic, Dublin 13; drfahadkhan90@gmail.com

Unmasking the impact of face masks on communication between healthcare professionals and patients during the Covid-19 pandemic

Précis

The increase in personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements has both physical and psychological impacts on patients and healthcare professionals. Healthcare professionals should use virtual and visual aids to overcome barriers to effective communication.

Abstract

Introduction: The foundations of patient interactions are heavily dependent on facial expression, tone and inflection, which help to communicate treatment plans, obtain consent and break bad news. The expansion in use of face masks during the Covid-19 pandemic may adversely affect the quality of patient-clinician interaction and service provision.

Objectives: To assess the impact of face masks on the experience of dental staff and patients at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

Methods: A survey was developed using a combination of validated psychometric and demographic questions. The survey was administered to 166 dental staff and 57 patients. Data were electronically analysed. Qualitative data were thematically analysed.

Results: Themes identified included: clinical; physical effects; psychological; pre-existing communication difficulties; communication barriers; and, accessibility of dental services. Some 63% (36/57) of patients noted that personal protective equipment (PPE) affected their communication and interaction. Over 70% (119/164) of dental staff reported repetition during consultations.

Conclusion: This study highlights the positive and adverse physical and psychological impacts of face masks on healthcare professionals and patients. Alternative solutions to mitigate the negative impact of face masks on communication include the use of virtual and visual aids. Furthermore, the implementation of well-being and support resources can aid in the challenges presented to healthcare teams.

Key words: SARS-CoV-2, Covid-19, coronavirus, communication, face coverings, facial expressions, face masks.

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Parnyan Ashtari

Department of Oral Medicine, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom

Martyn Ormond

Department of Oral Medicine, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom

Barbara Carey

Department of Oral Medicine, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom

Corresponding author: Barbara Carey, Consultant in Oral Medicine, Department of Oral Medicine, Guy's Hospital, Great Maze Pond, London SE1 9RT E: barbaracarey@nhs.net