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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The importance of the debate on occupational risk factors of COVID-19 for dental professionals

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Dear Editor,

The article titled “Factors underlying the high occupational risk of healthcare personnel for COVID-19 infection,”⁽¹⁾ published in this journal, contributes to the discussion on the occupational risk of SARS-CoV-2 contamination among health professionals and the relevance of the application of infection-prevention and control measures in routine care.

Bodily fluids have a high potential for SARS-CoV-2 transmission. The detectable concentration of the virus in early stages of the disease in saliva,⁽²⁾ coupled with the ease of its collection, renders saliva of diagnostic value to detect SARS-CoV-2.⁽³⁾ If, on one hand, saliva has great diagnostic value, on the other hand, it has a high potential for transmission. Therefore, dental professionals should have the same, if not greater, level of concern as other health professionals, as in their routine clinical practice, they are exposed to highly contaminating fluids such as blood and, especially, saliva (without exception), by direct, indirect (contaminated objects and surfaces) and aerosol contact.⁽⁴⁾

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Érika Mageste de Almeida Candido: supervision. Carlos Magno da Costa Maranduba, Melissa Mariana Gómez Vaca and Antônio Márcio Resende do Carmo: writing – review & editing. Marcos Henrique de Castro e Souza and Warley Oliveira Silva: investigation.

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