

Views of Dentists on SARS in Beijing and Hong Kong

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Objectives: This study was to compare and evaluate the attitudes and knowledge of cross infection control of dentists in Beijing and Hong Kong during SARS epidemic outbreak using a postal questionnaire survey. **Methods:** A questionnaire survey was conducted to evaluate the knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and impact of SARS on dentists during the outbreak of epidemic in Hong Kong and Beijing in 2003. These two cities were labeled as SARS infected areas by World Health Organization (WHO) for several months. Statistical analysis was utilized to ascertain significant differences between two groups of dentists in Beijing and Hong Kong. **Results:** The Hong Kong respondents were more concerned about contacting infections ($p<0.001$), smaller proportion think dentists would be very highly contacted SARS virus when treating SARS patient than their Beijing counterpart ($p<0.01$), more do not know the source that can obtain the most reliable SARS information ($p<0.001$), fewer think they could recognize SARS sign and symptoms ($p<0.001$) and feel less comfortable than their Beijing counterpart when treating a SARS patient ($p<0.001$). **Discussion:** There is a sociodemographic difference in two groups of patients and the cross infection control policies also differs that might account for the difference in attitudes and knowledge of cross infection control during the outbreak of SARS epidemics. **Conclusion:** The dentists in Hong Kong seem to be less optimistic in their clinical dental practice during the outbreak of SARS epidemics. (The private donation for Research combating SARS (a/c 20003958) is gratefully acknowledged.)

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