COLLEGE OF
ALBERTA DENTURISTS

Position Statement

Aerosol-Generating Procedures

May 6, 2020

Position

The design, construction, repair, alteration and fit of any complete or partial denture, for the purpose of restoring and maintaining function and appearance, is an expectation of practice for denturists in Alberta. The activities set out above involve intra- or extra-oral alteration of a denture, usually by grinding, that would release fine, solid, particulate matter or liquid droplets into the air.[1]

In the fabrication or alteration of a denture or dental appliance, the denturist performs an aerosol-generating procedure.

Background

The physical characteristics of the composition of a denture indicate that the denture itself is a porous object into which bodily fluids, and associated biome, may wick. In the design, construction, repair, alteration or fit of any complete or partial denture, a denturist may alter a denture or oral appliance which has been previously residing in a patient's mouth for an undetermined period of time.

In spite of best efforts for surface or immersion disinfection, due to the chemical and physical properties of saliva and its components in relation to the chemical and physical properties of a disinfectant used, there is a probability that a "disinfected" denture would still retain, either wholly or in part, bodily fluids and associated biome.

An aerosol-generating procedure is defined as an activity that creates either fine, solid, particulate matter or liquid droplets in the air.[2]

In the activity of altering a denture (i.e., grinding), it is probable that a layer or pocket of bodily fluids and associated biome, that were not neutralized with the disinfectant, may become disturbed thereby aerosolizing not just particulate matter, but liquid droplets, into the air.

[1] https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(14)61227-7/pdf
[2] https://decisionsindentistry.com/article/transmission-precautions-for-dental-aerosols/