Effects Of Covid-19 Pandemic on Oral Hygiene Practices and Self-Reported Oral Health Status of Clinical Health Care Workers at the University College Hospital, Ibadan

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BACKGROUND

• Ever since the emergence of SARS-CoV-2, it has been reported that health workers paid little attention to oral hygiene practices and its importance.1
• There is now a possibility that the oral hygiene practices of HCWs have changed from what they used to be, before the COVID-19 pandemic which may improve or worsen HCW’s oral2 and general health.3

AIM

• To assess the effect of COVID-19 pandemic on the choice of oral hygiene materials and self-reported oral health status of Clinical HCWs, at the University College Hospital, Ibadan.

RESULTS

• The age of respondents ranged from 22 – 68 years and mean age was 35.9 (± 10.7) years.
• Response rate was 99.3%.
• There were 69 (46.0%) males (Figure 1a).
• A high 125 (83.3%) respondents identified to be from the Yoruba tribe (Figure 1b) and 51 (34%) of respondents were dentists (Figure 1c).
• Mouth Cleaning choice materials before and during the COVID-19 are fairly even (Figure 2).
• Females were 1.5X more likely to cap their toothbrushes than males (Table 4)

METHODOLOGY

• This cross-sectional study was conducted among a convenience sample of (150) Clinical healthcare workers at the University College Hospital, Ibadan using an online questionnaire.
• Information on oral hygiene materials before and during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic were obtained from respondents.
• Ethical approval was obtained from the Joint UI/UCH Ethical Approval Board.
• Data were analysed with SPSS version 26.0 and level of significance set at p < 0.05 (5%).

CONCLUSION

1. There was no change in the choice of oral hygiene materials of the frontline health care workers before and during the pandemic.
2. Most of the HCWs maintained comparatively fair oral hygiene practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Clinical health workers should keep good observance to oral hygiene practices so as to maintain good oral health status.
2. Clinical healthcare workers should seek to improve on their fair level of oral hygiene practices so as to be excellent role models for other people in the society.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

There were No Conflict of Interests

REFERENCES