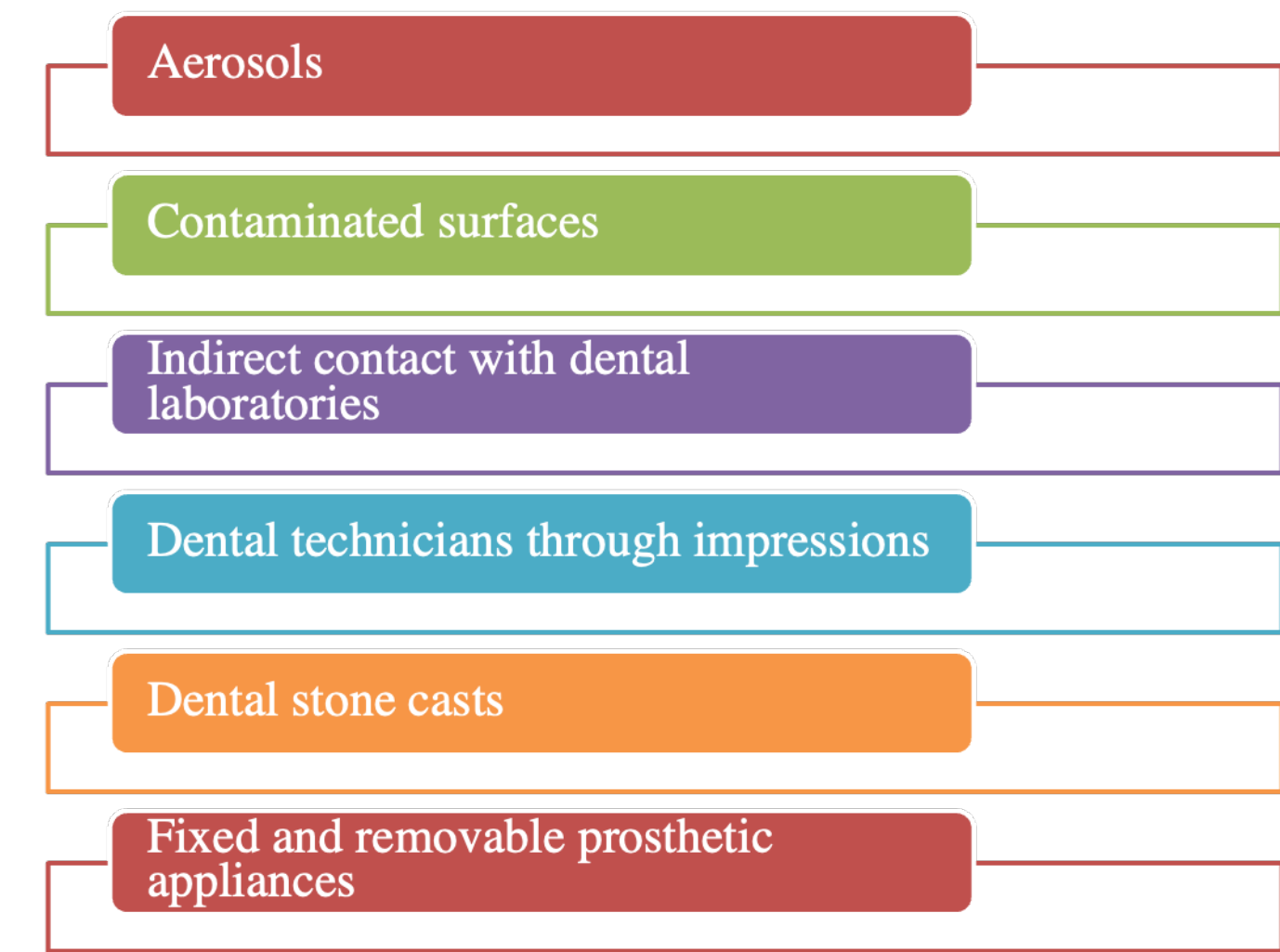


## INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 has greatly challenged the health professions and systems. The role of dental professionals around the globe in preventing the transmission of COVID-19 is critically significant. The current practice guidelines have been evolved in all disciplines of dentistry because of COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives of this review was to discuss the Current Protocols in Prosthodontic Practice during COVID-19 Pandemic.

## Risk Factors for Prosthodontists: SARS-CoV-2 Exposure



## METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

Pub Med, OVID Medline, Cochrane & Google Scholar database were used as a main search engine for data collection. The key words /mesh terms used for search were Prosthodontics; COVID-19; Clinical guidelines; Fixed Prosthesis. The most recent articles related to Fixed & Removable Prosthodontics discipline were selected.

## OVERVIEW

- Preventive measures should be executed including the performance of emergency treatments only, rescheduling patients with suspected disease, disinfecting surfaces and prosthodontic materials with biocidal substances.
- For the safety of health care professionals, utilization of protective equipment such as N95 masks, disposable gowns, and face-shields are highly encouraged.<sup>5</sup>

## OVERVIEW

- ✓ Prosthodontists are at high risk for exposure to the novel coronavirus due to the following major reasons
- ✓ (a) mainly through aerosols
- ✓ (b) contaminated surfaces
- ✓ (c) indirect contact with dental laboratories
- ✓ (d) dental technicians through impressions,
- ✓ (e) dental stone casts
- ✓ (f) fixed and removable prosthetic appliances.

## OVERVIEW

- Nevertheless, it's an ultimate responsibility of the prosthodontist is provide scientifically sound information among all the patients on prosthetic care.
- This would highly be beneficial in postponement of routine maintenance appointments during a pandemic.
- Patients and health care professionals are required to be vaccinated before any elective treatment or long-standing procedure is executed.

## OVERVIEW

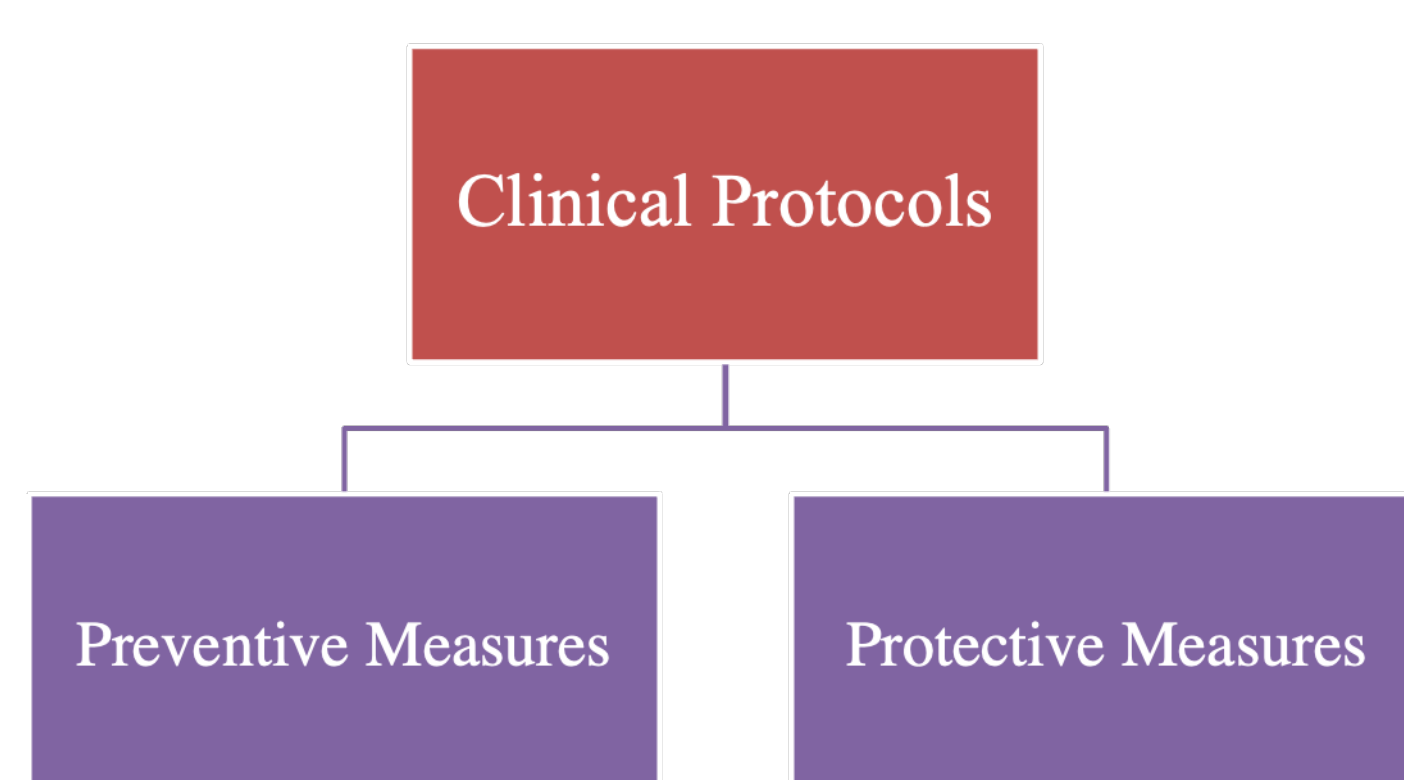
### Protocols for Clinical Procedures

- There is an absolute necessity to update and adopt latest safety and operatory protocols for providing dental care during the COVID pandemic.
- Firstly, the usage of tele-consultation is highly encouraged to screen healthy versus infected patients.
  - A triage protocol has been developed to classify patients into 3 different categories before the dental examination is conducted.

## CONCLUSION

- ✓ The major goal of implementing these clinical recommendations is to protect patients as well as the medical staff from unnecessary infection, and to keep the healthcare system running effectively.
- ✓ Therefore, every effort is essential to make the necessary investments.

## Clinical Protocols



## REFERENCES

- Batista AUD, Silva PLPD, Melo LA, Carreiro ADFP. Prosthodontic practice during the COVID-19 pandemic: prevention and implications. Braz Oral Res. 2021 Mar 12;35:e049. doi: 10.1590/1807-3107bor-2021.vol35.0049. PMID: 33729299.
- Degirmenci K, Kalaycioglu O. Evaluation of quality of life and oral hygiene attitudes of individuals using dental prostheses during the COVID-19 pandemic. J Prosthet Dent. 2021 May 22:S0022-3913(21)00196-7. doi: 10.1016/j.prosdent.2021.03.022. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34034897; PMCID: PMC8141906.