

ORAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS) VIRUS IN HUMAN BEINGS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SAFE DENTAL PRACTICES -A REVIEW

Arnesh Garg¹, S Sathasivasubramanian² & C V Divyambika³

¹*CRI, Sri Ramachandra Dental College, Porur, Chennai, India - 600116*

²*MDS, Vice Principal, Faculty of Dental Sciences, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research DU,
Porur, Chennai, India – 600116*

³*MDS, Associate Professor, Department of Oral medicine and Radiology, Faculty of Dental Sciences, Sri Ramachandra
Institute of Higher Education and Research DU, Porur, Chennai, India - 600016*

ABSTRACT

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, commonly referred to as SARS, is a highly contagious infection caused by the SARS Corona Virus that can affect people of all age groups, particularly those patients in the age group 60 years or above. It is spread by droplets and can be easily mistaken for a common cold. Oral manifestations occur within the inaugural stage of the virus. They include the presence of erythematous lesions over the soft palate, inflammation of the lymphoid tissues on the tongue, xerostomia and bluish discolouration of the lips. Some challenges faced in dentistry are the spread of infection via the aerosols released due to usage of dental instruments. This review article brings out the oral manifestations of SARS along with standard protocols and necessary safe practices that must be followed by dental professionals while dealing with patients suffering from SARS.

KEYWORDS: SARS; Clinical Features; Oral Manifestations; Patient Selection; Preventive Measures

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