

# Infectious Smiles

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Focus on Anti-infectives



## CDC (Centers for Disease Control) reports 'cluster' of dental professionals diagnosed with lung disease

The epidemiological review finding, according to the CDC, underscores a need for dentists and other dental personnel to wear adequate respiratory protection when exposed to respiratory hazards at work.

“ During 2016, dentists accounted for an estimated 0.038% of U.S. residents, yet represented 0.89% of patients undergoing treatment for IPF (Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis) at one tertiary care center — nearly a 23-fold difference, according to the report. ”

A collection of cases that is suspected to be greater than the number expected is referred to as a “cluster.”

In addition, in terms of tobacco use, three patients were former smokers, one had never smoked and the smoking history was unknown for the other five patients.

“Dental personnel are exposed to infectious agents, chemicals, airborne particulates, ionizing radiation and other potentially hazardous materials,” according to the CDC report.

“Inhalational exposures experienced by dentists likely increase their risk for certain work-related respiratory diseases”.

### Reference

1. CDC reports 'cluster' of dental professionals diagnosed with lung disease, American Dental Association (ADA) News, March 2018 Issue, Accessed on 5th June 2018.

<https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2018-archive/march/cdc-reports-cluster-of-dental-professionals-diagnosed-with-lung-disease>

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