

Slow Speed Handpiece Use In Orthodontic Procedures The BOS Position

The Office of the Chief Dental Officer (OCDO) published its [SOP](#) on 4th June, 2020. This guidance states that all orthodontic treatment can be carried out without producing an AGP.

The research [review](#) carried out by the BOS suggests that it is possible for a slow handpiece to produce an AGP however at this time there is no evidence linking this AGP with Covid 19 viral transmission.

In order to clarify this variance the BOS advice is that if you chose to use a slow speed handpiece you should work in a dry field using high volume evacuation (HVE) held very closely to the area of treatment. The [evidence](#) suggests that use of HVE will reduce any aerosol production by 43% and a fluid resistant surgical mask (FRSM) reduces the dust aerosol produced during an orthodontic debond by up to 96%.

Given this evidence the BOS advises that all orthodontic procedures can be undertaken with PPE appropriate for non-AGP as outlined in the BOS advice, as long as a FRSM is worn and HVE is used.

In addition the BOS advises all orthodontic practitioners to assess the risks of any procedure they carry out on an individual basis and undertake all necessary precautions they deem appropriate, aligned with the SOP published by the OCDO to ensure that they and their staff are wearing the PPE which is suitable for the procedures being undertaken.

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