

Dental surgeons belong to the group of clinicians who are at a very high risk of getting diseases from their clients. These organisms tend to get transmitted in dental clinics by (1) direct contact with blood, oral fluids, or other patient materials; (2) indirect contact with contaminated objects (e.g. instruments, equipment, or environmental surfaces); (3) contact of conjunctival, nasal, or oral mucosa with droplets (e.g. spatter) containing microorganisms generated from an infected person by coughing, sneezing, or talking; and (4) inhalation of airborne microorganisms.

FIGURE 8. 1: A modern dental clinic

Dental patients and dental surgeons can be exposed to many pathogenic microorganisms including cytomegalovirus (CMV), Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), herpes simplex viruses (HSV 1 and 2), HIV, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, staphylococci, streptococci, and many other microorganisms that colonize or infect the oral cavity and respiratory tract. (i) a pathogenic organism, (ii) reservoir or source, (iii) mode of transmission, (iv) a portal of entry and (v) a susceptible host.