

## **Dental Units role against Chemical and Microbiological Attacks**

**By: Dr. Mohsen Amin Sobhani**

**Dental Center # 600 of the I.R.I. Army**

**Teaching staff at University of Tehran / School of Dentistry**

The goal of this article is to familiar one with different kinds of chemical and microbiological attacks and how dental units would deal in these kinds of situations.

To succeed in a battle has a direct relationship with the health of soldiers and other related personals at war. Therefore, having medical and dental unit's sides by sides the soldiers are an outmost necessity. Considering the possibility of a chemical or microbiological attacks in a war (or in a non-military situations, i.e. a terrorist act), it would be necessary to prevent soldiers from exposure to these weapons. This way, they can still be functional. Secondly, to protect patients and civilians from exposure to these kinds of weapons.

Even though, almost all countries have agreed to ban these kinds of weapons, but there are still being used in many wars as weapons of mass destruction.

One example is Iraq's use of these weapons against Iran, which caused over 60,000 injuries.

That is why is necessary to be prepared for these attacks, before the actual attack, during the time of attack, and after the attack. Therefore, it is also necessary for dental units and their staff to have the latest equipment and broad knowledge of these weapons and their effects on people. For example, It should be taught how to use protective masks before the attack, or patients whom have dressing over their faces should be transferred to a safe place since they can not wear protective masks. In case of an attack, every catheter should be removed from patients' faces, so the protective mask could fit tightly on their faces.

After the attack, a prompt and broad disinfecting procedure should be carried out only if it does not conflict with the military operations. Only maxiofacial procedures should be done until the area is chemical-free, and only in medical units.

Many bacterial diseases have facial signs, like Pox, Chicken Pox, and... which could help in identifying the disease. If there is a considerable number of patients in a specific area with these signs, one should suspect a microbiological attack.

This article will discuss how dental staffs should function in case of chemical and microbiological attacks, and how to co-function with the medical staff.