

# DENTISTRY AND DENTAL MATERIALS

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## DENTAL TREATMENTS AND BLOOD PRESSURE VARIATIONS

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Arterial hypertension is pathology of high prevalence that tends to increase with age and it is one of the major risk factors for cardiovascular disease. A dentist can provide a valuable public health service by regularly checking the blood pressure of their patients. However, a dentist cannot diagnose arterial hypertension based on momentary actions, but must inform the patient when the values are suggestive of hypertension, suggest lifestyle behaviours and refer the patient to a specialist for further testing to obtain a correct diagnosis. The response of blood pressure to dental treatment is conditioned by factors that the dentist should try to reduce, such as physical and psychological stress, environment, humoral factors, central stimuli and neural reflexes. The blood pressure response to surgical and non-surgical dental treatments and the effect of local anaesthetics with or without a vasoconstrictor, is important because follow-up and blood pressure control in older patient cohorts can improve dental and clinical management.