

Bib chain 'yuck' factor and potential cross-contamination risk



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**DENTAL ADVISOR CONFIRMED
CROSS-CONTAMINATION RISK!**

**Researchers recommend you re-think
bib chains and either autoclave between
patients or use a disposable option**

Study finds: Bib chain potential cross-contamination risk

Surveys show that bib chains and clips are on the radar as potential sources of contamination. A bib chain can 'grab' onto hair or accumulate patient's sweat, make-up, hair products, neck acne, dermatitis, etc in the crevices and inaccessible areas of the holder. Yet not many dental offices have taken steps to protect their patients. Separate studies have concluded that dental bib chains and clips do carry a cross-contamination risk and that risk should not be ignored.

Study from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry confirms risk²:

- 1 out of 5 bib clips showed presence of significant micro organism growth
- Contaminated bib clips were found to harbor the opportunistic pathogen pseudomas and overt pathogens *Staphylococcus aureus* and the enteric bacteria, *E. coli*
- The sources for bacterial species represented were consistent with water lines, saliva, dental plaque and skin
- Study suggested that saliva and/or plaque from dental patients is ending up on bib clips potentially creating a cross-contamination risk

Other bib chain contamination study results have found³:

- Reportedly disinfected bib chains and clips with viable bacterial and fungal petri dish growth
- The more crevices and inaccessible areas, the higher the viable bacterial and fungal count
- Autoclaved and disposable bib holders did not create enough bacteria or fungus to be considered a source of viable pathogens



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Actual petri dish growth from used bib chain taken from dental office

¹John A. Molinari, Ph.D. - Microbial Contamination of Patient Napkin Holders
THE DENTAL ADVISOR Biomaterials Research Center Dental Consultants, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan; Juni 2010.

²UNC School of Dentistry.
Bib Chain Contamination Study.
Study on file with DUX Dental.

³Noel Kelsh RDH. Don't Clip That Crud On Me.
RDH. January, 2010.

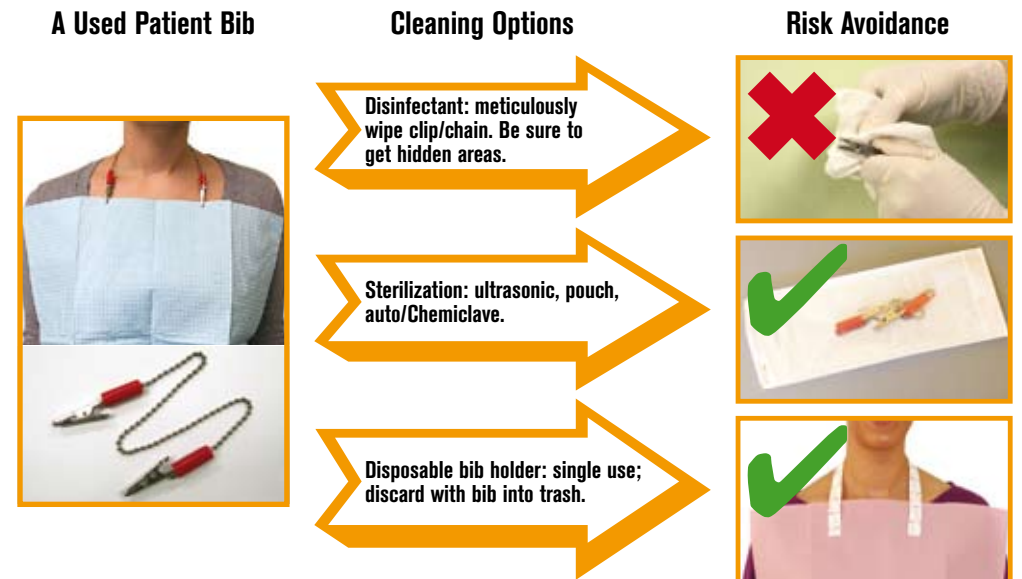
Avoiding the 'yuck' factor and eliminating the risk

Although the high 'yuck' factor of bib chains by itself is reason enough to re-think bib chains, the potential risk of cross contamination should be an important concern for a dental office.

There are probably three options an office can consider to reduce the risk.

The first option is to disinfect, however, crevices and hidden areas would be difficult to reach plus the process could be messy, cumbersome and not to mention you'd be handling the chain.

The second option is to sterilize the chain between patients. This would take care of the contamination risk but it takes a lot of time and additional product is needed. Another option is a disposable bib holder. They could be discarded with the paper bib and no cleaning would be necessary.



When choosing an option you should consider these 2 things:

1. Which option is easiest/most efficient for me to perform?
2. Which option gives me the best chance at avoiding contamination?

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- ***Single use: discard with bib into trash***



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DUX Dental
Zonnebaan 14
NL-3542 EC Utrecht
The Netherlands
Tel. +(31) 30 241 0924
Fax. +(31) 30 241 0054
Email: info@dux-dental.com
www.duxdental.com

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