


Avoiding Diagnostic Lens Fogging During the COVID-19 Era: Options to Consider [Response To Letter]

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Dear editor

We would like to thank Gorgoli et al¹ for their interest in our article.² Our suggested method is certainly not the only one, and the more the ophthalmic community will have, the better.

We share the concerns of what Gorgoli et al raised, where touching the upper part of the mask may expose us to more significant contamination, either by contact with eye secretions or by touching the mask's infected area. However, as we mentioned in our article, and as is also widely expressed in recent literature, infection by ocular secretions has not been fully demonstrated.³ Also, there is no evidence in the literature that touching the mask has any negative outcome neither for the ophthalmologist nor for the patient. The gloves are highly suggested in our method and with a little practice, one can hold the mask and not touch the diagnostic lens at all times until the gloves are changed, therefore with less risk of contaminating the medical equipment.

A recent study was conducted at a dedicated SARS-CoV-2 outbreak center in Singapore in airborne infection isolation rooms. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) samples from physicians exiting the patient rooms were collected, and interestingly enough, there were no positive samples from the masks surfaces.⁴ Albeit the front part of the mask should be considered infected as a general precaution, further studies are required to corroborate these preliminary data, primarily in the current real-life pandemic situation.

The World Health Organization's advice⁵ mentioned by Gorgoli et al focuses on general practices, and the recommendations issued are intended mainly for the general public and less for the experienced professional medical staff.

Regarding the idea of using adhesive medical tape on the upper part of the mask is, of course, a possibility, but one has to take into consideration that many patients are not comfortable with the adhesive medical tape fixed to their face and actually may refuse to cooperate, not to mention that such a routine maneuver requires supplement staff assigned for this role, which may be a great challenge, especially in public hospitals, with a high demand for care and, in many regions, where the health care system is over-saturated by the current crisis.

Finally, we would like to point out that this global pandemic situation is an excellent opportunity to raise, promote, and debate scientific ideas. Science is

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a cooperative enterprise, and we are glad to work together towards the common good for our society.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

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