

**THE ETIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF GAGGING:
A REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

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ABSTRACT

Gag reflex is a normal healthy defence mechanism which prevents foreign bodies from entering the trachea. Prosthodontists and general dentist frequently have had experience with the patient whose gag reflex is abnormally active. This article reviews the literature on the gagging problem. The first section considers the normal gag reflex and factors that may be associated with the etiology of gagging ,including anatomical and iatrogenic factors, systemic disorders and psychological conditions. A review of the management of patients with an exaggerated gag reflex follows and includes strategies to assist clinicians

KEY WORDS : Gag Reflex, Retching.