



Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.

Cling film for mobile phones to prevent cross-infection during the COVID-19 pandemic



Mitanjali Sethy, MD, Vamshi Krishna, MBBS, and Chakravarthi R. Srinivas, MD
Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

Key words: cling film; COVID-19; dermatology practice; mobile phone.

TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

Mobile phones have become an inseparable part of dermatology practice, and dermatologists use mobile phones in various ways while clinically examining patients. They are often used as a flashlight or a camera to take images of the lesions. In the COVID-19 pandemic era, mobile phones are more likely to be contaminated with the virus in health care settings, and they must be sanitized properly after use because they can be possible carriers of the virus.¹ However, it is not practically feasible to sanitize mobile phones with alcohol-containing sanitizer or chlorine solutions because these chemical solutions may have ill effects on mobile phone screens.

SOLUTION

Cling film roll can be a better solution for this challenge. These are thin, transparent plastic wraps with smooth surfaces, that can be used to wrap a mobile phone thoroughly before reaching the hospital (Fig 1). Because it is transparent, the plastic wrap gives a clear view of the mobile screen. We did not find a significant rise in temperature of the mobile phone or a marked change in the resolution of images taken with the mobile camera after applying the cling film (Fig 2). After use, the phone wrapped with cling film can be sanitized with alcohol-based sanitizer because it is waterproof. In the end, the film can be removed completely from the phone and discarded.

From the Department of Dermatology Venereology and Leprosy,
Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar.

Funding sources: None.

Conflicts of interest: None disclosed.

IRB approval status: Not applicable.

Reprints not available from the authors.

Correspondence to: Mitanjali Sethy, MD, Department of
Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy, Kalinga Institute of

Medical Sciences, Patia, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
PIN-751024. E-mail: mitanjali.sethy@gmail.com.

J Am Acad Dermatol 2020;83:e285-7.

0190-9622/\$36.00

© 2020 by the American Academy of Dermatology, Inc.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2020.06.1008>



Fig 1. A mobile phone completely wrapped with cling film.

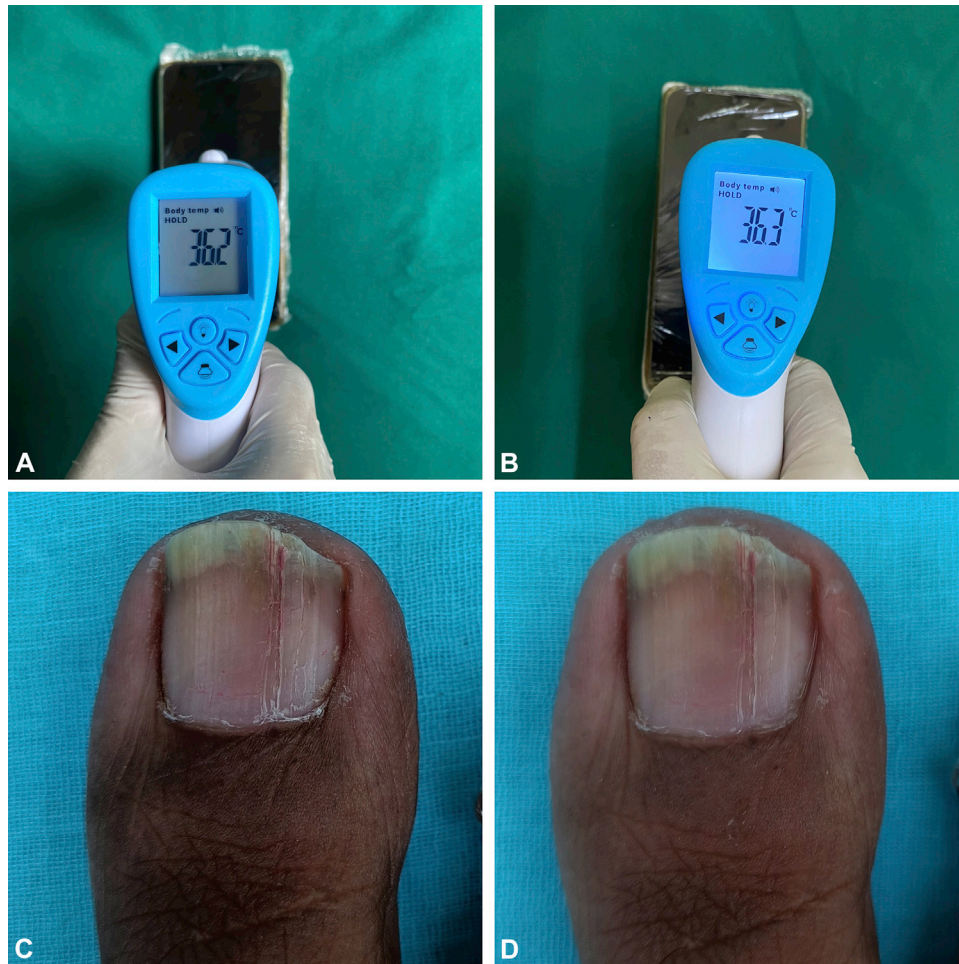


Fig 2. Temperature of a mobile phone wrapped with cling film (A) before and (B) after 6 hours of use. Resolution of an image taken with a mobile phone (C) without cling film and (D) with cling film.

At a time when there is intense focus on ways to prevent the spread of the disease, cling film is a plausible and cost-effective method for preventing cross-infection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.

REFERENCE

1. Van Doremalen N, Bushmaker T, Morris DH, et al. Aerosol and surface stability of SARS-CoV-2 as compared with SARS-CoV-1. *N Engl J Med.* 2020;382(16):1564-1567.