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SP11.5 Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Thyroid Surgery

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Introduction: The rapidly expanding COVID-19 pandemic has affected all aspects of daily life, including health care systems. The impact on COVID 19 on thyroid surgery is clear due to the delay in most thyroid related activities, including the delay in the thyroid investigations, screening and surgery.

The aim of the current study is to illustrate the impact of COVID 19 on thyroid surgery.

Methods: Retrospective review of our activities during 7 months (January – July) in 2021 during COVID-19 pandemic and comparing it with a similar period in 2019.

Results: During the period of seven months in 2019, we performed 69 thyroid surgeries, while during the same period in 2021 we performed 16 thyroid operations. In 2019, 35 patients had diagnostic thyroidectomy (malignancy was found in 9 of them), while only one case in 2021 had diagnostic thyroidectomy. Six patients in 2019 had completion thyroidectomy; one of them had thyroid cancer, while four patients in 2021 had completion thyroidectomy; all were benign. Malignancy was diagnosed in 26 patients in 2019 and in 10 patients in 2021. Most patients in 2019 had early stage disease (T1: 14 patients, T2: 4 patients, and T3: 6 patients), while most patients in 2021 had high stage disease (T1: 3, T2: 1, T3: 5, and T4: 1). Lymph node involvement was found in 9 patients from 24 in 2019, and in 9 patients of 10 in 2021.

Conclusion: Because of the COVID pandemic, most thyroid cancer patients presented with advanced disease with high incidence of lymphatic metastasis.