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**Implications of COVID-19 on Laparoscopic General Surgery:  
a single site experience**

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**Introduction and Aims:** The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on service provision in Emergency General Surgery. Due to the unknown risk of COVID-19 transmission, the use of laparoscopic surgery was cautioned against in favour of open surgery or conservative management. This study looks at the impact of service reconfiguration on rates of laparoscopic surgery.

**Methods:** The management and outcomes were audited of all patients admitted to our unit during the UK COVID-19 lockdown period and compared against the same period last year.

**Results:** In total, 645 patients (223 COVID-19 period, 422 non-COVID) were included. Less surgery was performed during the pandemic (32.3% vs 39.3%), with only 2 cases of laparoscopic surgery (0.9% vs 16.1%). Despite a change to conservative management, we report no differences in complication rates or length of stay and 30-day mortality (excluding deaths from COVID-19 pneumonitis). Re-admission rates were higher following conservative management (10.6% vs 4.7%).

**Conclusion:** There is a significant reduction in surgery (particularly laparoscopic surgery) during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are no differences in outcomes, but we show higher re-admission rates for patients treated conservatively. Together with emerging evidence on the safety of laparoscopic surgery, these findings help inform service re-configuration for future pandemic responses.