729 Effect Of COVID-19 On Orthopaedic Trauma Admissions in A London District General Hospital

U. Zahoor[1], C. Malik[1], H. Raja[1], S. Ramaraju[2], K. Sri-Ram[1]
[1]*Barts Health NHS Trust, London, United Kingdom,* [2]*Imperial College London, London, United Kingdom*

Introduction: The coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) has presented orthopaedic services with new challenges across all aspects of healthcare delivery. This study explores the effect of the COVID-19 lockdown on trauma admissions at a London District General Hospital.

Method: Data was collected retrospectively from electronic patient records during the lockdown period (16th March -30thApril 2020) and compared to the same dates in 2019. Patient age, date and time of admission, operation and anaesthesia timings and length of stay (LOS) were analysed.

Results: Fewer trauma patients were admitted in 2020 (108 vs. 65). Additionally, there was a patient demographics shift, with mean age increasing from 55.6 years to 64.1 years ($p = 0.038$). Falls remained the leading cause of injury, although the proportion dropped from 75% to 62%. Anaesthesia duration was longer in 2020 (136 vs 83 minutes, $p < 0.00001$). Similarly, there was a 13.6% increase in median operation length. Finally, although LOS was similar, admission-operation was greatly reduced in 2020 (1.22 days vs 4.74, $p < 0.0000001$).

Conclusions: Orthopaedic trauma care remains a vital service, particularly in high-volume hospitals. By understanding the effects of the lockdown on trauma admissions, healthcare managers can more effectively plan for future changes in non-emergent trauma service delivery as we move towards easing lockdown restrictions.