

### 89 Covid-19 and the Impact on Oncological General Surgery at a District General Hospital

J. Brown, L. Dick, M. Berlansky

*Borders General Hospital, Melrose, United Kingdom*

**Introduction:** Covid-19 has had a significant impact on all aspects of healthcare. We aimed to characterise our experience of oncological general surgery during the first 4-months of the pandemic and compare with the same period in 2019.

**Method:** A prospective cohort study was performed from 23/03/20 to 08/07/20. All elective oncological operations were included. Data on patient demographics, waiting times, inpatient characteristics and oncological outcomes were recorded. Statistical analysis was used to compare with retrospective data from 2019.

**Results:** 78 patients were included in total, 38 in 2019 and 40 in 2020. There were no differences in length of stay (2.5 vs 3.5 days,  $p=0.355$ ) or waiting list time (27.2 vs 24.2 days,  $p=0.574$ ).

Oncological outcomes were comparable with no statistical difference in clear resection margin status (94.4 vs 84.6%,  $p=0.168$ ) or positive nodal status (24.1 vs 37.1%,  $p=0.298$ ).

The percentage of staging CT scans requested externally was higher in 2020 (4 vs 32%,  $p<0.05$ ).

There was no difference in time from urgent referral to first assessment (30.5 vs 26.4 days,  $p=0.384$ ) or time to operation (96.6 vs 85.7 days,  $p=0.618$ ).

**Conclusions:** Oncological surgery during Covid-19 can be performed safely with favourable oncological outcomes. The longer-term effects from delayed diagnoses remain to be evaluated.