

INFOGRAPHIC

The delivery of an emergency audit response to a communicable disease outbreak can inform future orthopaedic investigations and clinical practice

LESSONS FROM IMPACT HIP FRACTURE GLOBAL AUDITS

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The International Multicentre Project Auditing COVID-19 in Trauma & Orthopaedics (IMPACT) was established in March 2020 to provide information about COVID-19 in orthopaedic patients.¹ The IMPACT Hip Fracture Audits included two national and one international multicentre retrospective cohort studies, and a worldwide survey of clinical service disruption during the summer of 2020.2-4 A systematic review and meta-analysis examined the existing literature,⁵ and a number of observational studies examined COVID-19 in general and planned orthopaedics.6,7

IMPACT reported important findings that included: mortality risk associated with COVID-19 at the time of injury; risk factors for acquiring and dying of the disease; and the role of nosocomial transmission.⁸ This global collaboration highlighted practical lessons that might guide the research and audit response to future specialty-wide issues. Reporting standards for future studies are suggested and include adequate reporting of pathogen, healthcare, and patient factors.

Rapid collaboration and effective datasharing were central to producing a dataset of sufficient size and diversity to answer urgent questions relating to COVID-19. A strategy for establishing collaborative clinical audits is outlined in order to improve the quality and robustness of future studies, facilitate audit-based investigation of topical issues using existing and common datasets, and permit a modern approach to health research using the meta-audit principles.^{9,10}

These lessons are relevant to improving the evidence-based management of communicable disease outbreaks, including further COVID-19 waves, novel diseases, and seasonal viral illnesses such as norovirus and influenza. They will also inform the examination of wider topical issues, such as periprosthetic femur fractures, orthopaedic infection, and major geriatric trauma.

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- T. O. White: Writing review & editing.
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