

TP10.2.14**Safe elective & emergency surgery: experience of a large tertiary centre during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic**

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Aims: To evaluate the impact of Trust infection prevention measures (including relocation of elective patients into a protected cold wing, vigilant testing and staff test and trace) on elective and emergency

nosocomial transmission rates and to analyse post-operative mortality in COVID-19 patients. Additionally, we compared the numbers of elective and emergency procedures in 2020 to 2019.

Method: Retrospective analysis of 5069 consecutive patients who underwent procedures in theatre from 11/03/20 – 08/09/20. COVID-19 infection was defined by PCR and/or radiological confirmation. Analysis of nosocomial transmission of COVID-19 and mortality was conducted using patient notes and death certificates. The number of procedures was compared with the same study dates in 2019.

Results: Nosocomial transmission rate was 0.27% in elective admissions (10/3773) and 0.97% in acute admissions (20/2052). The overall mortality in 2020 was 2.7% (135/5069). Covid-negative mortality was 2.36% (119/5033). 74 patients tested positive for COVID-19 at any time (1.3%); mortality in patients who tested positive seven days pre- to 30 days post-procedure was 5.4% (4/74). There were 10282 elective procedures in 2019 compared with 3773 in the same period in 2020, representing a 63.3% reduction in elective activity.

Conclusion: Our hospital infection prevention measures have kept nosocomial transmission rates low, particularly for elective admissions. We have observed lower rates of post-operative mortality in COVID-19 patients than published in other centres. There has been a predictably significant reduction in elective activity, however based on our findings we believe our infection prevention measures could provide reassurances to safely increase elective surgery activity.

