

Appendix 1: questionnaire impact COVID-19 on surgical residents

Dear Physician Specialist in Training,

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a serious impact on our society in recent months, not least our health care and education. Numerous (suspected or otherwise) effects and consequences of the pandemic are described and conclusions are drawn from this.

Surgery training has undoubtedly not escaped the necessary ad hoc adaptation of the schedules of specialist doctors in training. That is why we want to research the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on surgery training, with the aim of improving that training. Help us, but especially your training, by completing the following survey as adequately as possible. The questions asked always apply to the period from March to May 2020. Completing the survey takes a maximum of 10 minutes.

Thank you in advance for your time.

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Lieven Depypere, thoracic surgeon and former chairman of the Belgian Association of Surgical Trainees

Paul De Leyn, thoracic surgeon and chair of the UZ Leuven Surgery Competence Center

1. Informed consent

I have been informed in an understandable manner about the nature, method and purpose of this study. I agree to participate in this survey. I am aware that this study does not entail additional costs or financial benefits.

I am aware that I may interrupt the study at any time up to such time as the data is stored in the database without having to make a statement and without this having any effect on me. I also understand that my data is collected and recorded anonymously, and that the researchers guarantee the confidentiality of the data during processing and reporting. Anonymous means that the data cannot be linked to your identity.

- Yes
- No

2. Demographics

You are ASO

- Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Urology
- Plastic and reconstructive surgery

You are currently following a scientific trajectory

- Yes
- No

You are enrolled at the following university

- KUL
- VUB
- UGent
- UA

Training year

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

In which region is the hospital where you work?

- West Flanders / East Flanders
- Antwerp
- Flemish Brabant / Brussels
- Limburg
- Abroad

How many COVID-19 positive patients were treated in this hospital?

- 0-20
- 21-50
- 51-100
- > 100

You are currently in

- A university hospital
- A regional hospital

3. Impact theoretical education

How were service-related patient meetings (ward round, M&M,...) organized?

- As usual, but with hygienic measures (social distancing, mouth mask, ...)
- Less frequent, but still direct contact and with hygienic measures
- Digital meeting via e-platform, but with the same frequency
- Digital meeting via e-platform, but less frequent
- There are no more organized meetings (only ad hoc meeting)

Were ASOs admitted to service-related patient meetings?

- Yes
- No

How were multidisciplinary discussions (MOC) organized?

- As usual, but with hygienic measures (social distancing, mouth mask, ...)
- As usual, but without hygienic measures
- Less frequent, but still direct contact and with hygienic measures

- Digital meeting via e-platform, but with the same frequency
- Digital meeting via e-platform, but less frequent
- There are no more organized meetings (only ad hoc meetings)
- I never participate in a MOC or they are not organized in my discipline

Were ASOs admitted to multidisciplinary meetings?

- Yes
- No
- Does not apply

How were scientific meetings organized at the service?

- As usual, but with hygienic measures (social distancing, mouth mask, ...)
- Less frequent, but still direct contact and with hygienic measures
- Digital meeting via e-platform, but with the same frequency
- Digital meeting via e-platform, but less frequent
- There are no more scientific meetings organized

Were ASOs admitted to scientific meetings?

- Yes
- No
- Does not apply

4. Impact patient contacts

How is your preoperative contact with the patients going?

- As usual, but with hygienic measures (social distancing, mouth mask, ...)
- We avoid direct contact with the patient and conduct video and teleconsultations as much as possible
- All preoperative patient contacts are via tele and video consultations

How is your post-operative contact with the patients?

- As usual, but with hygienic measures (social distancing, mouth mask, ...)
- We avoid direct contact with the patient and conduct video and teleconsultations as much as possible
- All postoperative patient contacts are via tele and video consultations
- Patients are seen as little as possible and are returned to the referrer

Were ASOs admitted to the consultation?

- Yes
- No

5. Impact surgical performance

Compare your time in the operating theater during the COVID-19 crisis with the period before the outbreak

- More time in the operating theater
- Same time in the operating theater

- <50% less time in the operating theater
- > 50% less time in the operating theater
- I was no longer assigned to the operating theater at all

Compare your degree of independence (number of procedures A, S1, S2, Z) in the operating theater during the COVID-19 crisis with the period before the outbreak

- I had a higher degree of independence
- I had the same degree of independence
- I had a lower degree of independence

6. Impact work planning

How did COVID-19 affect your total number of working hours per week?

- I have had to work less on average
- I have had to work more on average
- I have had to work the same number of hours

How did COVID-19 affect your on call frequency

- On average I have been on call more
- On average I have been on call less
- I had no difference

How was your weekly schedule drawn up during COVID-19?

- I knew in advance where I was assigned
- The planning was drawn up ad hoc and could change daily

Are you involved in the care of COVID-19 positive patients?

- No
- Yes, only surgical patients
- Yes, triage and initial care of patients in the emergency department
- Yes, in a COVID-19 hospitalization ward
- yes, in a COVID-19 intensive care unit

Was there sufficient availability of protective material?

- Yes
- No

Was there adequate availability of protocols for the treatment and protection of COVID-19 positive patients?

- Yes
- No

7. Impact personal life

Have you tested positive for COVID-19?

- Yes
- No

- I have not been tested

How did the COVID-19 crisis contribute to your surgery training?

- Overall positive contribution
- Overall negative contribution

What was the influence of the COVID-19 crisis on your private situation

- Positive influence
- Negative influence
- No influence

Do you have any comments on how to deal with any subsequent crisis of this kind with regard to surgery training?