

NIHR Global Research Unit on Global Surgery
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RE: CovidSurg Cancer study

Dear colleague,

We are writing to you on behalf of the CovidSurg collaborative group, an international network of surgeons and anaesthetists. COVID-19 is a rapidly expanding global challenge, placing a huge burden on healthcare systems.

Cancer patients face a difficult time during the pandemic, as an elective operation might put them at risk of COVID-19 infection. Some of them might see their operations delayed due to hospital constraints or might be managed differently from usual care. There is no evidence to inform the management of this complex group of patients.

We would be delighted if you and your local team could take part in the CovidSurg Cancer study. This study aims to assess the outcomes of cancer patients with a tumour board decision for surgery. This will include operated patients and also patients who, regardless of the indication for surgery, might undergo alternative treatments due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Hopefully, this data will inform clinical practice during this pandemic and in future similar settings.

Given the exceptional circumstances that we are living in and the very low risk of observational data collection, we believe that local approvals need to be as agile as possible. To this date, we have more than 2800 colleagues registered for CovidSurg studies from 115 countries. We encourage you to seek your own local approval and to include patients from your hospital.

The CovidSurg group will run a series of further studies alongside with the cancer study, including a larger cohort study and hospital-level surveys. You will be updated regularly and you are very welcome to join and contribute.

All the collaborators participating in CovidSurg will be recognised with PubMed-indexed collaborative co-authorship on any resulting papers (example: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29452941>).





NIHR Global Health Research Unit on
Global Surgery

Yours sincerely,

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