

Special Issue

Challenges of General Surgery during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Message from the Guest Editor

On March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, with most of the highly revered national healthcare systems being caught underprepared. Major factors were the low beds-and-doctors-per-population ratios, combined with the general lack of experience with recent epidemics. The risk of infection to the surgical workforce through direct contact with infected vectors has led to changes in surgical practice. This has led to an increased risk profile of surgery for both patients and operative teams. Routine procedures such as open suctioning, smoke generation and the opening of pressurized spaces have been considered high-risk. To mitigate these risks, surgical services have made changes to their practice. The challenges mainly involve two fields: surgical patients and surgical procedures. This special issue aims to provide a comprehensive review of these challenges by collecting papers from an expert panel of authors.

Guest Editor

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