



## Letter to the Editor & Reply

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# Preparing the operating room for the Covid\_19 patients

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Dear Editor,

In December 2019, a disease called corona virus was identified in Wuhan, China, which spread rapidly around the world. The disease was first reported from seafood in Wuhan [1]. This virus belongs to the family of beta-coronaviruses, which are found in abundance in nature. This Issue Creates great challenges for the prevention and treatment of Covid\_19 [2].

Despite the spread of corona virus, elective surgeries have been postponed, and emergency surgeries such as trauma, complex hernias are performed with changes during surgery, including wearing personal protective clothing, and so on [3]. The indication for emergency surgery during an outbreak of coronavirus is the same as before an epidemic, but a balance between treatment time and the protection status of the treatment team against the virus is essential. However, the short time in emergency surgeries does not allow us to take PCR tests from patients before surgery, so patients should be treated like Covid\_19 [4].

Necessary surgeries are defined as surgeries that cannot be delayed for more than 8 weeks because they cause disease progression and irreversible consequences. It is clear that essential and semi-essential surgeries are not

always possible. Each type of surgery should be classified according to guidelines and disease status [5].

Limiting the time of cancer treatment is one of the worst cases during the Covid\_19 pandemic. Also it is undeniable and has irreparable consequences. Surgery should be delayed in cancer patients with low or no advanced mass [6].

The use of a special room and a separate anesthesia machine for the patient is necessary during the pandemic. If anesthesia requires medication during induction, the hands should be disinfected first and the gloves replaced. Personnel should remove their used gloves and disinfect their hands At the end of the surgery. Minimal equipment and tools should be used in the operating room and all equipment and tools used should not be taken out of the operating room and should be disposed of in a special container. It should be taken at least 1 h between patients to disinfect surfaces and equipment. The operating room should be disinfected with hydrogen peroxide. In general, there is evidence that using of PPE can minimize the risk of disease transmission and protect personnel.

In conclusion, health care workers are at high risk of contracting the coronavirus. Comprehensive infection control is essential to prevent this infection.

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