

Global impact of COVID19 on Surgeons and Team members (Global COST) study

Message for participants

As the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc over the globe, it forced us to consider alternative approaches to undertake our practice.

We aim to investigate the impact of COVID19 on surgeons and allied health professionals worldwide, of all specialities; on their career, family and home life as well as overall well-being- mentally, physically (including access to PPE) and financially.

The procedure involves filling an online survey that will take approximately 10 minutes. Your participation in this research study is voluntary. You may choose not to participate. Your details will be kept confidential. All data will be stored in a password protected electronic format.

If you have any questions about the research study, please contact Dr Mohamed A. Imam (Email: M.Imam@UEA.ac.uk).

Starting the survey indicates

- you have read the above information*
- you voluntarily agree to participate*
- you are a surgeon (consultant or trainee), surgical assistant, anaesthetist (consultant or trainee), operating department practitioner or scrub/theatre nurse, currently in practice.*

Objectives

To collect data on the following aspects of health amongst surgeons and allied health care professionals during the COVID 19 pandemic across the world:

- Information and training on COVID19 as a disease, personal protective equipment, managing (potential) COVID positive patients
- Physical health (COVID and non-COVID related illness during this time) and access to PPE and testing
- Mental health as per validated anxiety (GAD-7) and depression (PHQ-9) scores
- Financial and family well being
- Access to support in the form of occupational health, mental health and pastoral services as well as facilities for rest and food as outlined by British Medical Association Guidelines

Unique Points

To our knowledge, no other study is collecting data on all these dimensions of health simultaneously, using all parts of the validated mental health scoring systems outlined above, for the surgical health workforce on a global scale, as well as looking at available support resources within institutions.

Inclusion Criteria

The survey can be completed by all surgeons, surgical assistants, anaesthetists, operating department practitioners or scrub/theatre nurses within all surgical specialities currently in practice.

Study Period

The survey will be disseminated through a number of platforms including national surgical societies and trainee societies to reach as many people as possible globally over a period of 3 months.

Approvals

The study has been endorsed by the Royal College of Surgeons COVID Research Group.

Analysis

Data will be analysed through Microsoft Excel Software by members of the Global COST steering committee, led by Mr M Imam.

Presentation

We aim to present this work at relevant national/international conferences- virtually if not physically- and publish this in a peer-reviewed journal with open access. This is with the intent that this information can be taken forwards to improve the working environment for staff at all healthcare institutions.