Effects of COVID-19 on Emergency Surgeries in a Teaching Hospital in Lahore, Pakistan.

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Background

After outbreak in December 2019 in Wuhan China, Covid-19 was declared a public health emergency on January 30th, 2020 and later a pandemic. Since then it has significantly affected almost every field of life and certainly every domain in medical field. The schedules of the wards, the outpatient departments and the emergency wards, all have been disturbed and reshuffled. The surgical emergency wards in the teaching hospitals had huge changes in the number of cases and surgeries. Surgery departments all over the country have responded to the crisis by prioritizing the emergency surgical procedures.

Methodology

This study was conducted for three months at Lahore General Hospital, Lahore from 01.03.2020 to 30.06.2020. All patients presenting in surgical emergency department were included in the study. The data was compared with similar data collected during same months of yester year. Specific precautionary measures had to be taken during management of these patients. The effect of Covid-19 was observed on total number of patients presenting in emergency, decision making about surgical management versus conservative management and their outcome.

Results

There was obvious decrease in total number of patients presenting to surgical emergency. Due to lockdown, trauma patients were much less as compared to last year's data. Abdominal and other infections also declined, probably due to decrease in community acquired infections. Patients with malignancies suffered because more palliative procedures were performed during the said Covid-19 period.

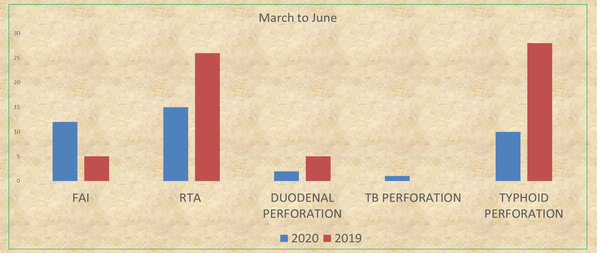
Conclusion

Our study showed an obvious impact on total number of emergency surgeries and their outcome. The knowledge gained would help us responding better if similar situation happens in future.

Key words; Covid-19, Corona, Emergency surgeries.

Category	No. of patients	No of patients
	Mar-june 2019	Mar-june 2020
Total	314	104
Infections, obstructions and others	204	37
Trauma	83	49
Malignancy	27	18





Management of surgical emergencies					
	2019			2020	
	operative	Conservative		Operative	conservative
Infections, obstructions and others 204	155	49	Infections, obstructions and others 37	21	16
Trauma 83	75	08	Trauma 49	44	05
Malignancy 27	21	06	Malignancy 18	06	12