Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.
Guidelines: Anaesthesia in the context of COVID-19 pandemic

Journal Pre-proof

Please cite this article as: Velly L, Gayat E, Jong AD, Quintard H, Weiss E, Cuvillon P, Audibert G, Amour J, Beaussier M, Bias M, Bloc S, Bonnet MP, Bouzat P, Brezac G, Dahyot-Fizelier C, Dahmani S, de Queiroz M, Maria SD, Ecoffey C, Fuller E, Geeraerts T, Jaber H, Heyer L, Hotel R, Joannes-Boyau O, Kern D, Langeron O, Lasocki S, Launey Y, Sache F, Lukaszewicz AC, Maurice-Szamburski A, Mayeur N, Michel F, Minville V, Mirek S, Montravers P, Morau E, Muller L, Muret J, Nouette-Gaulain K, Orban JC, Orliaguet G, Perrigault PF, Plantet J, Pottecher J, Quesnel C, Reubrech T, Rozec B, Tavernier B, Veber B, Veyckmans F, Charbonneau H, Constant I, Frasca D, Fischer M-Olivier, Huraux C, Blet A, Garnier M. Guidelines: Anaesthesia in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, Anaesthesia

PII: S2352-5568(20)30097-7
DOI: https://doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.accpm.2020.05.012
Reference: ACCPM 677
To appear in: Anaesthesia Critical Care & Pain Medicine
GUIDELINES

Guidelines: Anaesthesia in the context of COVID-19 pandemic

Notes de la rédaction

Guidelines from the French Society of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine (Société française d’anesthésie et de réanimation - SFAR), in collaboration with the Association of French-speaking paediatric anaesthesiologists and intensivists (Association des anesthésistes réanimateurs pédiatriques d’expression française – ADARPEF)

Validated by the Board of Directors of SFAR on 29/04/2020

Lionel Velly1,2, Etienne Gayat3-4, Audrey De Jong5,6, Hervé Quintard7, Emmanuel Weiss8,9, Philippe Cuillon10, Gerard Audibert11, Julien Amour12, Marc Beaussier13, Matthieu Bias14,15, Sébastien Bloc16, Marie Pierre Bonnet17,18,19, Pierre Bouzat20, Gilles Brezac21, Claire Dahyot-Fizelier22,23, Souhayl Dahmani24, Mathilde de Queiroz25, Sophie Di Maria26, Claude Ecoffey27, Emmanuel Futier28,29, Thomas Geeraerts30, Haithem Jaber31, Laurent Heyer32, Rim Hotéi33, Olivier Joannes-Boyau34, Delphine Kern35, Olivier Langeron36, Sigismond Lasocki37, Yoan Launey38, Frederic le Sache39,40,41, Anne Claire Lukaszewicz42,43, Axel Maurice-Szamburski44, Nicolas Mayeur45, Fabrice Michel46, Vincent Minville47,48, Sébastien Mirek49,50, Philippe Montravers51,52, Estelle Morau53, Laurent Muller54,55, Jane Muret56, Karine Nouette-Gaulain57, Jean Christophe Orban58, Gilles Orliaguet59,60, Pierre François Perrigault61, Florence Plantet62, Julien Pottecher63,64, Christophe Quesnel65,66, Vanessa Reubrecht26, Bertrand Rozec67, Benoit Tavernier68, Benoit Veber69, Francis Veyckmans70, Hélène Charbonneau71, Isabelle Constant72, Denis Frasca73, Marc-Olivier Fischer74, Catherine Huraux74, Alice Blet75,76,77, Marc Garnier78,79,80,81,82

1Aix Marseille University, AP-HM, Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, University Hospital Timone, 13005 Marseille, France
2Aix Marseille University, CNRS, Inst Neurosci Timone, UMR7289, Marseille, France
3Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Lariboisière Hospital, DMU Parabol, AP–HP Nord, University of Paris, Paris, France
4Inserm UMR-S 942, Cardiovascular Markers in Stress Conditions (MASCOT), University of Paris, Paris, France
5Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care unit, Regional University Hospital of Montpellier, St-Eloi Hospital, France
6PhyMedExp, University of Montpellier, INSERM U1046, CNRS UMR, 9214, Montpellier, France
7Intensive Care Unit, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Nice, Pasteur 2 Hospital, Nice, France
8Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Beaufour Hospital, DMU Parabol, AP–HP Nord, Paris, France
9Inserm UMR_S1149, Inserm et Université de Paris, Paris, France

10Department of Anaesthesiology, Beaujon Hospital, CHU Carémeau, Nîmes, France

11Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Lorraine University, Nancy University Hospital, 54000 Nancy, France

12Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Department, Hôpital Privé Jacques Cartier, 91300 Massy, France

13Département d'Anesthésie, Institut Mutualiste Montsouris, 75014 Paris, France

14Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Pellegrin Hospital, CHU de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France

15Inserm UMR-S 1034, Biology of cardiovascular diseases, Bordeaux University

16CMC Ambroise-Paré, Département d'anesthésie, 92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France

17Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Armand Trousseau University Hospital, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, France

18Centre for Epidemiology and Statistics Sorbonne Paris Cité (CRESS), Université de Paris, Obstetrical Perinatal and Paediatric Epidemiology Research Team, EPOPé, INSERM INRA, Paris, France

19Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Cochin-Port Royal University Hospital, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Paris, France

20Department of anaesthesiology and intensive care medicine, Grenoble University Hospital, F-38000 Grenoble, France

21Anaesthesiology, Lenval Children's Hospital, 06200 Nice, France

22Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, University Hospital of Poitiers, Poitiers, France

23INSERM UMR1070 - Pharmacology of Anti-infective Agents, University of Poitiers, Poitiers, France

24Department of anaesthesia and intensive care, Robert-Debré university hospital, APHP, DHU PROTECT, Inserm U1141, Robert-Debré University Hospital, France

25Department of paediatric Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Femme Mère Enfant Hospital, Lyon, France

26Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, APHP, Hopital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France

27Department of anaesthesia and intensive care, CHU de Rennes, Inserm UMR 991 and CIC 1414, Rennes 1 University, France
28 Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Estaing Hospital, CHU de Clermont-Ferrand, Clermont-Ferrand, France

29 Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS, Inserm U-1103, Clermont-Ferrand, France

30 Pôle anesthésie-réanimation, Inserm, UMR 1214, Toulouse Neuroimaging Centre, ToNIC, université Toulouse 3-Paul Sabatier, CHU de Toulouse, 31059 Toulouse, France

31 Departments of anaesthesia and intensive care, Caen University Hospital, France

32 Intensive care unit, Department of anaesthesiology and intensive care medicine, Croix-rousse Hospital, Lyon, France

33 Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care unit, Regional University Hospital of Montpellier, St-Eloi Hospital, France

34 Service d’Anesthésie-Réanimation Sud, Centre Médico-Chirurgical Magellan, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU) de Bordeaux, 33000, Bordeaux, France

35 Departments of anaesthesia and intensive care, Children Hospital, University Hospital of Toulouse, France

36 Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Henri Mondor University Hospital, University Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC), Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, France.

37 Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, UBL Université d’Angers, CHU Angers, Angers, France

38 Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Rennes, Rennes, France

39 Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, DMU DREAM, AP–HP.6 Sorbonne Université, Paris, France

40 Clinique Remusat, 75016 Paris France

41 Clinique Jouvenet, 75016 Paris, France

42 University of Lyon – EA 7426: Pathophysiology of Injury-Induced Immunosuppression (PI3)

43 Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care – Neurological hospital – Hospices Civils de Lyon

44 Department of Anaesthesia, Clinique Juge, 13008 Marseille, France.

45 Anaesthesiology and intensive care medicine, Clinique Pasteur, 31076 Toulouse, France

46 Department of Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, Assistance-Publique des Hôpitaux de Marseille, La Timone Hospital, France
Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Toulouse University Hospital, 31432, Toulouse, France

INSERM, U1048, Université Paul Sabatier, Institute of Metabolic and Cardiovascular Diseases, I2MC, 31432, Toulouse, France

Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Dijon University Hospital, 21079, Dijon, France

U-SEEM, Healthcare Simulation Centre of University Hospital of Dijon, 21079, Dijon, France

Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, CHU Bichat Claude Bernard, DMU Parabol, AP–HP Nord, University of Paris, France

Inserm UMR-S 1152, Epidemiology and physiopathology of respiratory diseases, University of Paris, Paris, France

Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Hopital Universitaire Arnaud de Villeneuve, Montpellier

Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Pain and Emergency Medicine, Nîmes-Caremeau University Hospital, Univ Montpellier, Place du Professeur Robert Debré, 30 029, Nîmes Cedex 9, France

Physiology Department, EA 2992, Faculty of Medicine, Univ Montpellier, Montpellier-Nimes University, Nîmes, France

Institut Curie PSL research university, 75005 Paris, France

Department of Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care and Pain, Institut Curie, 75005 Paris, France

Department of anaesthesiology and intensive care medicine, Nice University Hospital, Nice, France

Surgical Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, Universitary Hospital Necker Enfants Malades, Paris, France. EA08 pharmacologie et évaluation des thérapeutiques chez l'enfant et la femme enceinte, Paris Descartes University (Paris V)

Department of Anaesthesia and Critical Care Medicine, Montpellier University, Gui de Chauliac Hospital, Montpellier, France

Service d’anesthésie-réanimation Clinique Générale 4 chemin de la Tour la Reine, Annecy, France

Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Les Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg (HUS), Strasbourg, France

FMTS - Fédération de Médecine Translationnelle de Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France

Department of Anaesthesiology and Critical Care, Tenon Hospital, DMU DREAM, AP–HP.6 Sorbonne Université School of Medicine, Paris, France
SFAR organisers and expert coordinators: Lionel Velly and Marc Garnier

REVIEWER PANELS:

SFAR Guidelines committee: Alice Blet, Audrey De Jong, Hélène Charbonneau, Philippe Cuvillon, Marc-Olivier Fisher, Denis Frasca, Marc Garnier, Etienne Gayat, Catherine Huraux, Hervé Quintard, Lionel Velly, Emmanuel Weiss
SFAR board of directors: Xavier Capdevila, Hervé Bouaziz, Laurent Delaunay, Pierre Albaladejo, Jean-Michel Constantin, Marie-Laure Cittanova Pansard, Marc Léone, Bassam Al Nasser, Hélène Beloeil, Valérie Billard, Francis Bonnet, Marie-Paule Chariot, Isabelle Constant, Alain Delbos, Claude Ecoffey, Jean-Pierre Estebe, Marc Gentili, Olivier Langeron, Pierre Lanot, Luc Mercadal, Frédéric Mercier, Karine Nouette-Gaulain, Eric Viel, Paul Zetlaoui

Corresponding author: Lionel VELLY, Service d’Anesthésie-Réanimation, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Timone, 264 rue saint Pierre, 13005 CEDEX 5 Marseille, France.
e-mail: lionel.velly@ap-hm.fr

ABSTRACT

Objectives: The world is currently facing an unprecedented healthcare crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic. The objective of these guidelines is to produce a framework to facilitate the partial and gradual resumption of intervention activity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods: The group has endeavoured to produce a minimum number of recommendations to highlight the strengths to be retained in the 7 predefined areas: (1) Protection of staff and patients; (2) Benefit/Risk and Patient Information; (3) Pre-operative assessment and decision on intervention; (4) Modalities of the pre-anaesthesia consultation; (5) Specificity of anaesthesia and analgesia; (6) Dedicated circuits and (7) Containment Exit Type of Interventions.

Results: The SFAR Guideline panel provides 51 statements on anaesthesia management in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. After one round of discussion and various amendments, a strong agreement was reached for 100% of the recommendations and algorithms.

Conclusion: We present suggestions for how the risk of transmission by and to anaesthetists can be minimised and how personal protective equipment policies relate to COVID-19 pandemic context

Keywords: COVID-19; SARS-CoV-2; airway management; infection prevention and control; personal protective equipment; viruses
INTRODUCTION

The outbreak of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) has been spreading globally outside the first Chinese outbreak since January 2020 and the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a pandemic situation on March 11, 2020. The epidemic situation has led to a drastic reduction in hospital activities. The evolution of the pandemic allows us to resume some of these activities. Beyond this resumption, the persistence of the virus defines a new situation that will have to be taken into account for the care of patients in the coming months.

The size and type of activities that will resume depend on many factors outside the organisation of care within our establishments. These factors include the availability of personal protective equipment, anaesthesia/critical care drugs, and critical care beds. Finally, it seems important to point out that the epidemic situation is fluctuating not only in time but also in space, so it will be necessary to modulate the recommendations according to the region of exercise and the incidence of COVID-19 cases.

We need to organise access to this care by meeting a dual imperative: 1) providing access to quality care for patients whose procedures cannot (or can no longer) be postponed, and 2) limiting the risk of contamination of these patients and healthcare professionals.

The choice of specific measures to be implemented for the management of a patient in this context will be guided by the risk associated with the patient and the risk associated with the procedure.

The persons at risk of serious forms of COVID-19 are:

- people aged 70 years and over (although people aged 50 to 70 years should be monitored more closely);
- people with a history of cardiovascular disease: complicated high blood pressure, history of stroke or coronary artery disease, heart surgery, NYHA stage III or IV heart failure;
- insulin-dependent diabetics who are unbalanced or have secondary complications;
- people with chronic respiratory disease that may decompensate for a viral infection;
- patients with chronic renal failure on dialysis;
- patients with active cancer under treatment (excluding hormone therapy);
- people with congenital or acquired immunosuppression:
  - drug: cancer chemotherapy, immunosuppressive therapy, biotherapy,
  - and/or immunosuppressive dose corticosteroid therapy,
  - uncontrolled HIV infection or with CD4 < 200/mm3,
  - following a solid organ or haematopoietic stem cell (HSC) transplant,
  - related to a malignant haemopathy being treated,
• patients with cirrhosis at least stage B of the Child-Pugh classification;
• people with morbid obesity (body mass index > 30 kg/m²).
• Concerning the risk related to surgery, two situations have been identified:
• surgery with a high risk of contamination of caregivers by aerosolisation of SAR-CoV-2
  (intervention with opening or exposure of the airways: lung resection surgery, ENT surgery,
  neurosurgery of the base of the skull, rigid bronchoscopy);
• major surgery, with a high risk of postoperative critical care stay, where the perioperative
  respiratory risk inherent to surgery and anaesthesia is likely to be increased by SAR-CoV-2
  infection or even porting.

Purpose of the recommendations

The objective of these guidelines is to produce a framework to facilitate the partial and gradual resumption of
intervention activity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The group has endeavoured to produce a minimum
number of recommendations to highlight the strengths to be retained in the 7 predefined areas. The basic rules
of universal good medical practice in perioperative medicine were considered to be known and were therefore
excluded from the recommendations.

Fields of the recommendations

The recommendations made concern 7 fields:

• Protection of staff and patients
• Benefit/Risk and Patient Information
• Preoperative assessment and decision on intervention
• Modalities of the preanaesthetic consultation
• Specificity of anaesthesia and analgesia
• Dedicated circuits
• Containment Exit Type of Interventions

METHOD

These recommendations are the result of the work of a group of experts brought together by the French Society
of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (SFAR). The approach used to draw up these recommendations was deliberately
pragmatic and logical. Initially, the organising committee defined the issues to be addressed with the
coordinators, and then designated the experts in charge of each of them. Due to the topic addressed,
(perioperative organisation in the context of the resumption of surgical activity scheduled during the COVID-19
pandemic), and the lack of evidence in the literature for a certain number of issues to date, it was decided prior
to the drafting of the recommendations to adopt a format of expert opinion. The recommendations were then drafted using the terminology "experts suggest doing" or "experts suggest not doing". Proposed recommendations were presented and discussed one by one. The aim was not to necessarily arrive at a single, convergent expert opinion on all the proposals, but to identify points of agreement and points of divergence or indecision. Each recommendation was then evaluated by each of the experts and subjected to an individual rating using a scale ranging from 1 (complete disagreement) to 9 (complete agreement). The collective rating was based on a GRADE grid methodology. In order to validate a recommendation, at least 70 per cent of the experts had to express a favourable opinion, while less than 20 per cent expressed an unfavourable opinion. In the absence of validation of one or more recommendations, the recommendation(s) was/were reformulated and submitted again for scoring with the aim of reaching consensus. The experts' synthesis work resulted in 51 recommendations. After one round of scoring, a strong agreement was reached for 100% of the recommendations and algorithms.
1. PATIENTS AND STAFF PROTECTION

1.1. Universal safety measures

R1.1.1 – Experts suggest implementing strict safety measures for hospital staff and patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. General measures include hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rub; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; the routine use of a surgical mask type II or IIR and social and physical distancing measures by maintaining a minimal distance of one meter between staff members when wearing a mask is not possible (lunch breaks).

R1.1.2 – Experts suggest setting up a strategy in order to conserve supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) in case of present or future shortages.

Rationale

Health care professionals working in anaesthesia and critical care departments, anaesthesia units, intermediate care units and critical care units face an elevated risk of COVID-19 exposure.

In order to protect them during this pandemic, strict safety measures should be implemented. These measures should be carried out all throughout the patient's healthcare pathway: preanaesthetic assessment, operating theatres, recovery rooms, intermediate care units and critical care units.

These safety measures will be implemented directly by providing healthcare professionals with adequate PPE, but also indirectly by supplying patients with the right equipment.

Administrative measures (patient information, preoperative laboratory testing, check-up modalities, anaesthesia modalities, dedicated healthcare pathways, patient and surgery selection), which also help protecting staff members, will be detailed in the following/other chapters.

Staff members should apply strict social and physical distancing measures when not caring for patients (team rounds, discussions about patients, hand-offs, breaks, meals...): they must keep at least 1 to 2 meters apart from one another, especially during times when wearing a mask is not possible.

1.2. Preanaesthetic assessment/check-up

R1.2.1 – Experts suggest that all patients coming in for a preanaesthetic assessment perform hand disinfection using alcohol-based hand sanitiser and put on a surgical mask type II/IIR when entering a hospital. This also applies to kids for whom fitted masks should be provided.

R1.2.2 – During preanaesthetic assessment, experts suggest performing hand hygiene using
alcohol-based hand sanitiser before and after every contact with the patient or his surroundings, in addition to wearing a surgical mask type II or IIR and eye protection (goggles) during any clinical examination which requires the patient to take off his mask.

R1.2.3 – Experts suggest applying the following universal safety measures in order to organise medical consultations:

- Setting up waiting lines and making sure patients are spaced at least a meter apart (by putting up social distancing posters and markers on the floor...);
- Restricting the number of patients in waiting rooms and organising seats in such a manner so there is at least a one-meter distance between seats;
- Putting up posters promoting general hygiene instructions/tips;
- Providing alcohol-based hand rub at room entrances;
- Setting up a safety distance in addition to specific physical distancing devices (like temporary plexiglass barriers, interphones...) for those whose work position requires them to be in physical proximity to other people. These devices should be cleaned frequently, following the same cleaning procedures that are used on other surfaces;
- Removing magazines, documents and other commonly used objects from waiting rooms and common areas, including children's toys;
- Regularly cleaning surfaces (counters, computers, phones...) and equipment (blood pressure cuffs, pulse oximeter, stethoscopes...) after each patient.

Rationale

During this COVID-19 pandemic, every patient could potentially be contaminated and should therefore protect other patients and hospital staff by applying alcohol-based hand gel and wearing a surgical mask type II or IIR.1-3

By blocking large droplets, surgical masks protect staff members from droplet and contact transmission.4 Surgical masks can provide protection for healthcare professionals against droplet transmission within a one-meter radius of the patient. Four RCTs compared the efficiency of N95 or FFP2 masks and surgical masks in healthcare workers performing non aerosol-generating procedures.5-8 A meta-analysis including these studies reported no significant difference in the occurrence of viral respiratory infections (RC 1,06; 95% IC 0,90-1,25) between the 2 types of mask.9 Only one study specifically evaluated coronaviruses and reported no significant difference between the 2 types of masks in non-aerosol generating procedures.6

1.3. Operating theatre
R1.3.1 – Experts suggest that healthcare professionals involved in airway management (intubation, extubation, supraglottic airway insertion and/or removal...), or those who could be brought to do so in some given situations, wear a fit tested respirator mask (Respirator N95 or FFP2 standard, or equivalent) in addition to a disposable face shield or at least, in the absence of the latter, safety goggles, regardless of the patient’s COVID-19 status (Table 1).

R1.3.2 – Experts suggest wearing these additional PPE during airway management (intubation, extubation, supraglottic airway insertion and/or removal...) of all known or suspected cases of COVID-19:

- A fluid resistant long-sleeved gown in addition to a plastic apron or, in the absence of the latter a surgical gown;
- A disposable head cap;
- Single-use disposable non-sterile gloves.

R1.3.3 – Experts suggest disposing of contaminated equipment in the operating theatre where the intervention is taking place, as close as possible to the door. PPE should be disposed in dedicated well-identifiable containers for infectious risk health waste (IRHW):

- Remove the apron and/or the surgical gown, roll them into a ball before tossing them. Afterwards, take off the fluid resistant long-sleeved gown;
- Remove and discard the gloves;
- Apply an alcohol-based hand rub;
- Remove the head cap;
- Remove the face shield or the safety goggles;
- Apply another alcohol-based hand rub.

R1.3.4 – Experts suggest minimising the number of staff required for airway management in the operating theatre during these procedures to only one, regardless of the patient’s COVID status.

Rationale

There is a great risk of becoming infected during airway management. Therefore, strict safety measures should be applied during aerosol-generating procedures such as bag mask ventilation, endotracheal intubation, open/ endotracheal suctioning and extubation. The use of a respirator FFP (filtering face piece mask) type 2 is recommended by the French Society of Hospital Hygiene (SF2H) and the French-Speaking Society of Infectious Disease for all healthcare professionals manipulating the airway. Respirators are tight fitting masks, designed to create a facial seal that protect the person wearing them from droplets and airborne particles inhalation. However, wearing this type of mask can bring more discomfort than wearing a surgical mask (overheating,
respiratory resistance...). They have the advantage of blocking at least 94% of aerosol particles (total inward leaking < 8%) and are more effective than surgical masks type II/IIR in blocking < 5 µm particles. Nonetheless, a poorly fitted N95 or FFP2 respirator does not protect more than a surgical mask. A leak test must be performed systematically. Furthermore, a beard (even a stubble one) reduces the mask’s adherence to the face and thus decreases its global efficiency.

In case of N95 or FFP2 respirators shortage, some experts suggested using N99 or FFP3 respirators which block at least 99% of aerosol particles (total inward leaking < 2%). However, the problem with these respirators in that the air is most often exhaled through an expiratory valve without being filtered. They do not filter the wearer’s exhalation, only the inhale. This one-way protection puts others around the wearer at risk, in a situation like COVID-19.

COVID-19 can also be transmitted by aerosol contact with conjunctiva and lead to a respiratory infection. The fact that unprotected eyes increase the risk of transmission has been demonstrated with coronaviruses. Face shields provide a barrier against high velocity aerosol particles and are commonly used as alternatives to safety goggles as they provide greater face protection. Using a droplets simulator loaded with influenza viruses (mean droplet diameter: 3.4 µm) and a breathing simulator, it was demonstrated/shown that the use of a face shield reduces the risk of aerosol inhalation by 70%. When spraying fluorescent dye (particle diameter = 5 µm) from a distance of 50 cm towards a mannequin head equipped with an N95 respirator and a face shield, no contamination was noted in either nostrils nor eyes nor mouth folds. The same researchers found that using safety goggles in combination with an N95 respirator did not prevent some eye contamination. Face shields also contribute to sparing N95 or FFP2 respirators by limiting their contamination with aerosol projections. N95 or FFP2 respirators can be used for up to 8 hours.

1.4. Recovery rooms

R1.4.1 – Experts suggest performing extubation and supraglottic airway removal in the operating theatre, regardless of the patient’s COVID-19 status. Extubation in recovery rooms should remain exceptional.

R1.4.2 – Experts suggest giving out surgical masks type II/IIR to patients post-extubation and before leaving the operating theatre, regardless of their COVID-19 status.

R1.4.3 – If an extubation or supraglottic airway removal should exceptionally be carried out in the recovery room, experts suggest wearing an N95 or FFP2 respirator, a head cap, disposable gloves, and a face shield or, failing that, safety goggles during the procedure. In other cases, experts suggest wearing a surgical mask type II/IIR.
**R1.4.4** – Experts suggest maintaining a minimal one-meter distance between each patient in recovery rooms during the pandemic period, and a minimal distance of 7-8 meters if an extubation is performed in the recovery room.

**Rationale**

Whenever possible, in order to spare N95 or FFP2 respirators and to protect staff members and other patients, extubation should be performed in the operating theatre by the person who performed the intubation. If this is not possible, the same precautions should be taken in the recovery room for staff protection. In the latest World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations for COVID-19, health care personnel and other staff are advised to maintain a one-meter distance away from a person showing symptoms of disease. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention recommends a two-meters separation. However, these distances are based on estimates of range that have not considered the possible presence of a high-momentum cloud carrying the droplets long distances. Recent work has shown that exhalations, sneezes and coughs emit turbulent multiphase flows that can contain pathogen-bearing droplets of mucosalivary fluid. When sneezing or coughing, these droplets/gas clouds can travel in the air for up to 7 to 8 meters. This new understanding of respiratory emissions dynamics has implications on social distancing strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, swabs taken from air exhaust outlets in COVID+ patients’ rooms were found to contain RNA fragments, suggesting that small virus-laden droplets may be displaced by airflows. However, in this study, no viral culture was done to demonstrate virus viability. For these reasons, extubation should remain exceptional in the recovery room, and giving out surgical masks type II/IIR to patients after their extubation is essential.

**1.5. Critical care units/ intermediate care units**

**R1.5.1** – Experts suggest always/continuously wearing a surgical mask type II/IIR in common areas. Barrier measures should be followed strictly during medical and paramedical team rounds, hand-offs and breaks (opening additional spaces for lunch breaks).

**R1.5.2** – Experts suggest wearing an N95 or FFP2 respirator, a head cap, non-sterile disposable gloves, a face shield (which has the advantage of protecting the respirator) and/or safety goggles when performing aerosol-generating procedures in patients whose COVID-19 status is unknown. A fluid-resistant long-sleeved gown + a plastic apron or, failing that a surgical gown, should be added when dealing with a known or suspected case of COVID-19. Procedures at risk of aerosolisation are:

- Endotracheal intubation and extubation;
- Performing a tracheotomy;
- Endotracheal suctioning without a closed suction system;
- Caring for patients who are receiving non-invasive pressure ventilation or high-flow nasal oxygen therapy;
- Administration of nebulised treatment by a device other than vibrating membrane nebulisers.

R1.5.3 – When the patient’s COVID-19 status is unknown, experts suggest using a closed suction system for tracheal suctioning. If this system is unavailable, it is necessary to interrupt the patient’s ventilation during suctioning, ideally with the help of a second operator.

Rationale

Respiratory droplets are the main source of contamination in healthcare professionals. During aerosol-generating procedures, there is a consensus on the efficiency of N95 or FFP2 respirators (see questions 1.3) and the wear of protective gear such as a fluid resistant long-sleeved gown or a combination of a conventional gown and a plastic apron. The number of asymptomatic patients carrying the virus is high, which is why caregivers should systematically use protection during high-risk procedures.

1.6. Paediatric particularities

R1.6.1 – Experts suggest allowing only one parent to be present during kids’ preanaesthetic assessment.

R1.6.2 – Experts suggest that all clinical anaesthesia personnel wear a surgical mask type II or IIR, safety goggles and gloves, when performing any procedure with a high transmission risk, particularly when examining the oral cavity.

R1.6.3 – Experts suggest wearing an N95 or FFP2 respirators, a head cap, a gown with an apron, gloves and a face shield or, failing that, protective goggles, when performing airway procedure in children who are awake in the recovery room, regardless of their COVID status.

Rationale

During this COVID-19 pandemic, applying enhanced safety measures for the paediatric population is justified due to the existence of a significant proportion of possibly asymptomatic COVID+ children (up to 16% depending on the series) and the likely difficulty in complying with social distancing and safety measures (difficulty of continuous wearing of the surgical mask) by children. These findings imply that anaesthesia staff should wear a surgical mask type II/IIR, protective goggles (or a face shield) and gloves when performing any procedure with a high risk of transmission, and particularly when examining the oral cavity during anaesthesia consultation.

2. BENEFIT AND RISK OF OPERATING, AND PATIENT INFORMATION

R2.1 - In asymptomatic patients, during a COVID-19 pandemic, experts suggest evaluating the benefit/risk ratio of the intervention according to criteria related to the patient, the pathology and the procedure (Table 2).
**Rationale**

The circulation of SARS-CoV-2 in the population and the existence of asymptomatic carriers affect the risk-benefit ratio of performing a planned surgical procedure during the COVID-19 pandemic and require rigorous evaluation. This consideration must integrate three types of criteria related to the patient, the pathology and the procedure. The data in the literature, although heterogeneous and with a low level of evidence, identify several patient-related risk factors for serious forms of COVID-19 potentially associated with an increase in postoperative complications: ASA class, obesity, age (> 65 years, < 1 year), underlying respiratory (asthma, COPD, cystic fibrosis) or cardiovascular (hypertension, coronary artery disease and chronic heart failure) pathology, obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome, diabetes, and immunosuppression.\(^{29,30}\) This increase in perioperative risk is, however, offset by the potential deleterious effect of cancelling or postponing the procedure on the patient.\(^{31}\) The loss of chance in the absence of intervention must be estimated and the effectiveness and availability of therapeutic alternatives (curative or waiting) explored. Finally, two types of factors related to the surgical procedure must be considered: resource utilisation and the risk of transmission of CoV-2-SARS to the healthcare team. Surgical time and expected length of stay provide an indication of the staff and hospital resources required. For each intervention, the foreseeable use of postoperative management in a critical care area must be anticipated in order to adapt surgical activity to the supply available at the time. Transfusion needs must also be assessed due to the difficulties of public access to blood donation collection points. The number of personnel required must be taken into account as it increases the risk of contamination of the health care team due to the impossibility of complying with the recommendations for intraoperative distancing. Finally, the risk related to the type of anaesthesia and the type of surgery must be evaluated. Upper airway management has been identified as a high-risk event for potential transmission of the aerosolised airway secretion virus that persists several minutes after the procedure.\(^{32,33}\) The same risk is observed for upper aerodigestive tract and thoracic procedures. Finally, the risk related to the surgical site must take into account the probability of postoperative mechanical ventilation, the consequences of which could be aggravated in the context of an infection, or even portage, with SARS-CoV-2.

**R2.2 - Experts suggest informing, orally and in writing, the patient and/or his legal representatives of the specific circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, information regarding the evaluation of the risk/benefit ratio related to the intervention and the anticipated patient path should be delivered. This information should be written in the patient's medical records (Appendix #1, #2 and #3).**

**Rationale**

During the preanaesthetic consultation, detailed information must be provided to the patient and/or his/her legal representative about the perioperative strategy decided regarding his specific situation in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. The message must be clear, objective and based on the currently available data, while trying to be reassuring for the patient and/or his legal representative. This message must be given orally during the
consultation but also disseminated through a document (established and validated by each structure), which can be given to the patient and/or his legal representative during the preoperative consultation (surgical or preanaesthetic). This information must appear in the medical record. In the appendix, based on current data, we propose examples of model documents (Appendix 1, 2 and 3). In the event of cancellation or postponement of the intervention, it is essential to keep in touch with the patient, mostly through the surgical teams, and to reassess the possible alternatives and the feasibility of the procedure according to the evolution of the circumstances. If the decision of postponement or cancellation of the surgery is taken by the patient, it must be recorded in the medical record.

3. PREOPERATIVE ASSESSMENT AND DECISION REGARDING SURGERY

| R3.1.1 - Experts suggest using a standardised questionnaire to search for symptoms compatible with a SARS-CoV-2 infection before any surgery in adults and children (Appendices #4 and #5). |

Rationale

The use of a standardised questionnaire increases the completeness of the symptom collection and the reproducibility of the medical examination. It is an appropriate tool for collecting accurate information from a large number of subjects. The data collected are easily quantifiable and traceable. The essential qualities of such a questionnaire are acceptability, reliability and validity. The questions must be formulated to be understood by the largest number of patients, without ambiguity, and be based on validated items. Because of the wide variety of symptoms attributable to the SARS-CoV-2, the questionnaire should be designed to look for the most frequent symptoms (fever, dry cough, etc.) and/or the most evocative ones (anosmia, ageusia, etc.), without however declining all the unusual symptoms that have been reported in the literature. An example of a standardised questionnaire distinguishing between major and minor symptoms is proposed for adults in the Appendix #4 and for children in the Appendix #5.

| R3.1.2 - In adults and children, the experts suggest searching systematically symptoms compatible with a SARS-CoV-2 infection at the minimum during the preanaesthetic consultation/teleconsultation and during the preanaesthetic visit. Whenever possible, searching symptoms during a phone call with the patient or his legal representative 48-72 hours before the intervention is also recommended to avoid a last-minute postponement of surgery. |

Rationale

Assessment of specific perioperative risk during the COVID-19 pandemic requires, as in the usual situation, the joint consideration of the surgical, patient and anaesthetic risks. In addition, searching usual and/or evocative symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 infection is an important time of the preanaesthetic consultation in the current
pandemic context and during the first months following the easing of the lockdown. The presence of major (i.e., very frequent or relatively characteristic) and/or minor (i.e. more inconsistent and/or less specific) symptoms allows to orient the preoperative COVID-19 status assessment, and then to estimate the benefit/risk balance of maintaining or postponing the surgery, taking into account the risk of contamination of health personnel and others patients within the care structure. The integration of these different risks must be collectively weighed against the potential consequences of postponing or cancelling a scheduled intervention.

This search for symptoms compatible with a SARS-CoV-2 infection must take place at the time of the preanaesthetic consultation in order to discuss the postponement of the intervention, if possible, and to anticipate the protective measures that should be applied for the health personnel, and the care circuit that should be used. The questionnaire can be completed by the patient himself, by a nurse just before the consultation or by the anaesthesiologist during the consultation. Then, it must be explained that the patient must immediately contact the anaesthesia team, without waiting for admission to the hospital, in case one or more symptoms compatible with a SARS-CoV-2 infection appear between the preanaesthetic consultation and the day of the intervention. It will also be necessary to explain the importance of the strictest compliance with protective measures, particularly hand-washing and wearing systematically a face mask outside home, between the preanaesthetic consultation and the day of the intervention. If the local organisation allows it, a contact with the patient 48 to 72 hours prior to its admission to the hospital, to ensure that no symptoms have appeared, can also be planned. This timeframe can be adapted locally, the objective of this contact being to have a PCR performed and its results available before coming to the hospital for surgery if the patient has become symptomatic since the preanaesthetic consultation. However, taking into account that the delay between the preanaesthetic consultation and the intervention may correspond to the incubation period of the disease, and that spontaneous reporting by the patient of the onset of symptoms since the consultation will not be systematic nor exhaustive, the search for these same symptoms must be systematically renewed during the "physical" preanaesthetic visit the day before or on the day of surgery.

R3.1.3 - In adults and children, the experts suggest measuring objectively the temperature and collecting at the same time whether or not an antipyretic medication has been taken by the patient, during the preanaesthetic consultation/teleconsultation (by the patient himself or the parents for children), as well as during the preanaesthetic visit or on arrival at the D0 unit.

Rationale

Fever, although non-specific, is a very common symptom of symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infections, present in 75% to 95% of cases. The presence of fever is a major symptom and an important warning sign that should raise the suspicion of a possible SARS-CoV-2 infection during the current pandemic.
However, since the sensation of fever is highly imperfectly correlated with the temperature objectively measured,\textsuperscript{39} it is suggested that patient's temperature should be measured during the preanaesthetic consultation. In addition, antipyretic drug intake should also be systematically collected at the same time as the temperature measurement because acetaminophen (or even NSAIDs when taken as self-medication by the patient) can normalise the patient's temperature. As the delay between the pre-anaesthetic consultation and the intervention may correspond to the incubation period of the disease, an objective measurement of the patient’s temperature must be renewed during the preanaesthetic visit the day before or on the day of the intervention.

**R3.1.4 - In adults, the experts suggest using the following 2 algorithms (Figures 1 and 2) for the preoperative COVID-19 status assessment and perioperative strategy before scheduled or emergency surgery.**

**Rationale**

These 2 algorithms are the result of a work that tried to take into account a maximum number of clinical situations in a maximum number of structures, while trying to keep it simple. If local provisions, linked to access to diagnostic tests, to the typology of patients, to the prevalence of the virus in the geographical area concerned, or to an agreement between the different specialties at the local level, have led to propose a local algorithm different from those proposed, we suggest that the local algorithm may take precedence over those proposed here.

The algorithms in **Figures 1 and 2** take into account:

1) the presence of major and/or minor symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 infection,

2) the presence of risk factors for severe forms of SARS-CoV-2-infection (as defined by the memo of the French High Council for Public Health dated March 31, 2020 and recalled in the introduction section of these recommendations),

3) the risk of serious forms of COVID-19 in the postoperative period, in particular due to a possible synergy between perioperative pulmonary injury and SARS-CoV-2 infection,

4) the possibility to postpone the intervention.

**FOR PLANNED SURGERY (Figures 1):**

*In a symptomatic patient,* it seems reasonable to postpone the intervention for 24-48 hours to obtain the results of the SARS-CoV-2 PCR performed on a nasopharyngeal swab.

If the PCR is positive, COVID-19 infection requires postponing the intervention until patient’s recovery, which is set for a period of at least 14 days after symptom onset, extended to at least 24 days in immunocompromised patients or patients with a severe form of COVID-19, in whom clearance of the virus may be longer.\textsuperscript{40,41} At the end
of this postponement period, the patient returns to the first line of the algorithm: recollection of a nasopharyngeal swab if symptoms persist or, in the absence of symptoms, in the case of surgery at risk.

If the PCR is negative, and taking into account the existence of false negative results, if the clinical presentation is evocative, especially if it is reinforced by characteristic paraclinical signs (lymphopenia 35-70% of cases; eosinopenia 50-65 % of cases; high CRP with normal PCT 60-90% of cases\textsuperscript{35-38,42}), it should be considered that the patient has a proven SARS-CoV-2 infection. Then, the diagnostic probability may be reinforced, especially in the case of major surgery at risk of severe postoperative forms of COVID-19, by:

1) a thoracic CT-scan, which has a high negative predictive value to rule out COVID-19 in symptomatic patients (approximately 85-95%)\textsuperscript{43,44},

2) a control of the PCR on a second sample, taking maximum care to ensure that the new oropharyngeal swab is performed by a team trained in the proper execution of swabbing; or

3) a COVID-19 serology, only if the symptoms have been present for at least 7 to 10 days. This serology will only be of value if it is positive, and it will only indicate that the patient has been in contact with the virus, without being able to date the infection or conclude on the possible protective nature of the antibodies detected (see explanations below).\textsuperscript{45}

It is therefore advisable to be particularly vigilant if the serology is the only positive test, as the patient may have a history of SARS-CoV-2 infection and another current virus or pathology.

If the patient presents with signs compatible with a SARS-CoV-2 infection but that the PCR is negative, the evocative paraclinical signs are absent, the CT-scan shows no signs of SARS-CoV-2 viral pneumonia, and the serology performed after at least 7-10 days of symptoms is negative, a differential diagnosis is then the most likely, and the intervention will be postponed until this other pathology has recovered.

In a patient with mild symptoms (i.e. with only 1 minor symptom), the presence of a close contact in the past 15 days with a person with suspected or proven SARS-CoV-2 infection increases the likelihood that the patient has a SARS-CoV-2 infection. His/her management becomes then similar to that of a patient with a more suggestive clinical presentation. Similarly, the presence of risk factors for a severe form of COVID-19 in a paucisymptomatic patient encourages further preoperative investigations to confirm or deny the diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

In a completely asymptomatic patient, a distinction should be made between:

1) surgeries with opening or exposure of the airways (ENT surgery, thoracic surgery, oral surgery, surgery of the base of the skull, rigid bronchoscopy, etc.) for which there is a significant risk of aerosolisation for the operating theatre staff, motivating the realisation of a PCR even in an asymptomatic patient as long as the virus is circulating in the population; and
2) surgeries for which a SARS-CoV-2 infection could have serious postoperative consequences, thus motivating PCR testing. These surgeries can probably be summed up as "major" surgeries (open-heart surgery, major abdominal or pelvic surgery, organ transplantation, etc.), particularly due to their frequent respiratory impact, since the risk of synergy between SARS-CoV-2 and perioperative lung injury is not known. To date, this preoperative screening for COVID-19 indicated by the type of surgery is based on PCR and there is no indication to perform a thoracic CT scan in this context.

In these two situations, the PCR will ideally be performed in the 24 hours preceding the intervention, at most 48 hours, in order to have an idea of the viral carriage as close as possible to the high-risk procedure while taking into account the time required to obtain the results in each structure in order to have them available before the intervention.

Finally, non-major surgeries in an asymptomatic patient can be performed in a conventional non-COVID-19 circuit. If possible, it is suggested that the close contacts of these patients (such as the immediate neighbours in the postoperative recovery room) should be traced to facilitate contact tracing if the patient develops symptoms consistent with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the days following surgery.

It should be noted that if the presence of antibodies in the plasma of a convalescent patient 7 to 10 days after the onset of symptoms has been reported, the positivity of the serology is sometimes later (up to several weeks). In addition, the antibody titre and their neutralising character against SARS-CoV-2 may vary depending on the patient. Furthermore, diagnostic performances vary greatly depending on the type of kit used in the laboratory. Finally, the neutralising character of the detected antibodies depends on the viral antigens against which the detected antibodies are directed. Consequently, the only place of serology in the diagnostic strategy to date is in addition to a chest CT-scan and a new PCR sample if the first PCR in a symptomatic patient is negative and the symptoms have been evolving for at least 7 to 10 days. New data may change its place in the diagnostic algorithm in the future, especially if it allows the formal detection of patients who are genuinely cured and protected against re-infection, so that surgery can be performed without risk for the patient and staff.

FOR EMERGENCY SURGERY (Figures 2):

By definition non-deferrable, the surgery has to take place. However, PCR sampling should be performed in symptomatic or mildly symptomatic patients who have had close contact with a COVID-19 patient within the last 15 days, or who themselves have risk factors for severe forms of COVID-19 or are operated from surgery with postoperative respiratory risk. Surgery is performed without waiting for the results. In the case of major surgery, a postoperative surveillance in the intensive care unit (potentially already justified by the complexity of the surgery and/or the patient's comorbidities) may be considered, especially in a symptomatic patient, as a risk of synergy between perioperative lung injury and infection/carry of SARS-CoV-2 cannot be excluded at this time.
R3.1.5 – Paediatric Specificity: In children scheduled for a surgical procedure in a conventional hospital setting, given the large number of asymptomatic forms of CoV-2-SARS infection, experts suggest that a PCR screening test be routinely performed in the hours prior to the procedure (Appendix 6). When the child is scheduled for an outpatient procedure, the experts suggest that the COVID-19 status should be sought, at a minimum by using the standardised questionnaire (paediatric version, Appendix 5) at the call on D-1. If the interview proves positive, the procedure is rescheduled at least 15 days later. If the questioning does not appear to be interpretable, the child will, depending on the degree of urgency of the procedure, either be rescheduled or hospitalised with a PCR screening test.

Rationale

Severe forms of COVID-19 are uncommon in children compared to adults, with an estimated incidence of resuscitation of 0.6% of symptomatic forms.53 Clinical manifestations are generally limited to a mild form with fever, myalgia, dry (or productive) cough, runny nose and digestive disorders (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain) in 54% of cases.53–55 Finally, more specific to COVID-19 is the presence of anosmia and/or ageusia without nasal obstruction, which are strongly suggestive of this pathology.1,2 The presence of skin signs such as pseudo frostbite or urticarial elements are also signs suggestive of COVID-19 in children and adolescents. In all cases, the majority of reported paediatric cases are familial in origin and a history of COVID-19 in the family environment should be considered a risk factor for this disease in children, even if the child is asymptomatic.56,57 Radiological signs are identical to those in adults but are inconsistently found (43% of cases on average) and therefore do not contribute much to the diagnosis in this population.56,57 The same limitation applies to pulmonary ultrasonography given the lack of studies in the paediatric population.58 Biologically, the published series show lymphopenia or hyperlymphocytosis associated with increased CRP.56

It is important to note that recent studies conducted on cohorts of individuals on an epidemiological basis tend to show that for one person expressing the disease, 7 people are asymptomatic, which reflects the limitations of the clinic to screen all potentially contaminating patients (prepublication study 1) [9-10].

Taking into account these elements and the asymptomatic or paucisymptomatic nature of the disease, the problem of the preoperative assessment in paediatrics is above all that of diagnosing this pathology in children, given the risks incurred by caregivers (representing between 3 and 15% of COVID-19 infections) [6], but also that of nosocomial contamination of other patients given the particularly high number of reproductions of this condition (between 2 and 3.5).56,57 In the same vein, ambulatory surgery should in theory be favoured in order to avoid cases of nosocomial contamination.

It is therefore proposed to perform a PCR test for the virus for each paediatric patient before surgery.
In the context of the emergency department, PCR is carried out on admission of the child, but surgery can be performed before the results are obtained.

4. PREANAESTHETIC PATIENT ASSESSMENT

R4.1.1 - During COVID-19 crisis, the experts suggest that telemedicine is an alternative to face-to-face consultation and must be used to reduce patient in-visit.

**Rationale**

The current outbreak of COVID-19 has placed a heavy burden on global medical systems, particularly with regard to the preoperative assessment of patients for surgery. For all elective surgeries in France and in many countries for major surgery, preoperative physical assessment by physicians had become a standard of care. The current crisis has reduced this possibility because patients should not be exposed to potentially contagious structures. In this context, telemedicine is an alternative to face-to-face consultation. The World Health Organization now defines telemedicine “as the provision of healthcare services via the use of communication technology for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and for continuing education of health care providers in settings where distance is a factor, and now COVID-19”.

Since the years 2000-2005, telemedicine, or the use of video and audio devices to provide medical advice and perform visual examinations of patients, has become a rapidly advancing specialty. Utilisation of secured Internet networks (including password) and video cameras has allowed specialists in distant geographic locations to take full medical histories and perform thorough clinical evaluations and physical examinations.\(^{59,60}\) Recently, with the rise of 4 and 5G, reliable video and audio communication can now enable telemedicine consultation. In this context, utilising only the telephone may provide a reasonable secondary plan during the crisis, but airway and physical evaluations could not be performed. A large variety of equipment and communications products are available along a wide range of price points, meaning equipment can be scaled to practice-specific needs in an efficient manner.

For physicians, many existing telemedicine videoconferencing technologies are already on the market. Recent units provide the highest level of detailed patient interaction and enable a pertinent preoperative physical examination to be performed, with specific focus on cardiopulmonary and airway examinations equipment malfunction, such as loss of video imaging or audio, could require backup solutions to be in place. The duration of teleconsultation is about 20 min, and data have to be transmitted in a secure document or survey.

For patients, prior agreement to carry out a telemedicine evaluation is a mandatory step. It is advisable to send beforehand a guide to prepare the teleconsultation (including: connection modalities, health questionnaire on current treatments, information documents...) to facilitate the smooth running of the consultation. If necessary,
a person close to the patient or an interpreter may, if present during the TLC, assist the doctor in carrying data of the clinical examination within the limits of his or her competence. Not all patients desire remote evaluation, and the exact reasons for this have not been elucidated. Patient selection is an important step for virtual preoperative evaluation. For example, patients in whom arranging travel is complicated underwent successful telemedicine preoperative evaluation before oral and maxillofacial surgery with no complications, highlighting this patient population as one in whom remote evaluation may be beneficial. The use of telemedicine preoperative evaluation has been studied in a variety of patient populations. All types of surgery can be performed with telemedicine evaluation but major surgery (cardiac, vascular, thoracic, etc.) and patients with many comorbidities or treatment are obstacles to the development of this technique. Similarly, patients must be able to connect to a platform and know how to use the software. Failure to undergo a preoperative anaesthesia evaluation may contribute to day of surgery cancellation, which has a negative financial impact on both patients and hospitals. Up to 25% of day of surgery cancellations are due to inadequate preoperative workup, and it is well established that preoperative clinics reduce risk of such cancellations and delays. With telemedicine, we found a 1.3% last minute cancellation rate, consistent with the international average, in patients who underwent telehealth evaluation as opposed to an in-person visit, thus suggesting an equivalent performance between the 2 evaluation options.

Teleconsultation is carried out using tools that guarantee the security of patient data. It is carried out in conditions that must guarantee: Authentication of the healthcare professionals involved in the procedure; Identification of the patient; Access by healthcare professionals to the patient's medical data required to perform the procedure; Access by the patient to the patient's medical data required to perform the procedure. Informed consent is an important factor in surgery and telemedicine itself is no different.

The evaluation of the practices is advised to optimise these new modalities.

5. MODALITIES OF ANAESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA

As stated in the introduction, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resumption of surgical activity is subject to several major limitations: the strain on the supply of certain anaesthesia drugs, the change in hospitalisation capacities, the risk of contamination of healthcare providers and patients and the application, throughout the patient's journey, of the "distancing" principle. In addition, some peculiarities of COVID-19 patients (risk of drug interactions, worsening of the condition, etc.) are to be taken into account.

These limitations lead us to propose an adaptation of anaesthesia procedures. Favour strategies that reduce the exposure of health professionals to a risk of contamination while maintaining optimal safety conditions for the patient is one of the most important objectives. When safety conditions are met (especially for postoperative follow-up), outpatient management should probably be prioritised.
5.1. Is it necessary to adapt the anaesthesia modalities?

**R5.1.1 – In a context of resumption of surgical activity and COVID-19 pandemic, experts suggest that drug-saving anaesthetic strategies (for propofol, midazolam, myorelaxants) should be preferred in adults and children.**

**R5.1.2 - Experts suggest giving priority whenever possible to regional anaesthesia. Regional analgesia and infiltration techniques should also be considered.**

**Rationale**

Tensions on drug stocks and even shortages of drugs such as propofol, midazolam, atracurium, cisatracurium or rocuronium require the choice of anaesthesia protocol that spares these drugs, which are otherwise subject to quotas.

To do so, the experts propose several principles:

- Prefer regional anaesthesia (RA) for anaesthesia and analgesia, rather than general anaesthesia. In the context of COVID-19 pandemic, there are many advantages for choosing RA if it is possible. General anaesthesia (GA) exposes to the risk of contamination during periods of upper airway management. Peripheral and central RA techniques have a favourable risk/benefit ratio and allow for the maintenance of patient protection measures (mask use) and decreased caregiver exposure during anaesthesia and surgical procedures. RA reduces the consumption of drugs under supply pressure (propofol, midazolam, atracurium, cisatracurium and rocuronium). In children, RA and infiltration techniques can also be proposed in combination with general anaesthesia or sedation to reduce the use of drugs that are in short supply.

- Peripheral and topical local anaesthesia allow postoperative follow-up directly in the room or in a dedicated space, without going through the recovery room in accordance with regulations. This facilitates compliance with distancing measures specific to the current epidemic context. In children, since RA techniques are regularly associated with general anaesthesia or sedation, they do not make it possible to bypass the recovery room.

- When GA is required, inhaled anaesthesia should probably be preferred in this context to intravenous target-controlled anaesthesia.

- Monitoring of the depth of anaesthesia when possible, and of curarisation may be required in order to best adapt drug dosages.

These recommendations apply to both elective and emergency care. In conjunction with the institution’s pharmacy, it is important to monitor local stock trends.
5.2. Are there any particularities for airway management?

R5.2.1 - Regarding airway management during intubation of a COVID+ or highly suspicious patient, the experts refer to the "expert recommendations on the resuscitation management of patients during SARS-CoV-2 epidemics" published by the SRLF-SFAR and to the "airway management principle" sheet, which are also applicable in the operating theatre.

Rationale

During the COVID-19 pandemic period, the intubation of a COVID+ patient in the operating theatre is based on the same rules as those issued in critical care units, due to the risk of spraying of the virus during this risky procedure. In order to minimise the risk of aerosolisation and contamination of personnel, it is necessary to:

- Limit the number of staff present in the operating theatre
- Avoid ventilating the patient with a face mask during the preoxygenation phase.
- Stop oxygen before removing the bag valve mask.
- Intubate the patient by the most experienced senior using a video laryngoscope
- Connect the ventilator after inflating the intubation tube balloon.

R5.2.2 - Experts suggest that rapid sequence induction is preferred for airway management of a COVID+ or highly suspected patients.

R5.2.3 - The experts suggest performing induction according to usual airway management for a non-COVID patient.

Rationale

If general anaesthesia is required, the patient's clinical condition and COVID-19 status should be considered in the airway management strategy.

- **If the patient is COVID+ or highly suspected:** the procedure described by SFAR\(^46\) should be followed with rapid sequence induction and intubation. Special attention should be paid to tracheal extubation with the same barrier precautions as for intubation. This applies to patients under emergency management when the COVID-19 status is unknown. Special attention should also be paid to hand hygiene.

- **If the patient is non-COVID or asymptomatic,** there is no need to modify usual procedures because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Routine airway management is recommended. If intubation is chosen, conventional induction is recommended according to standard recommendations, with adaptation of the induction sequence according to haemodynamic conditions, drug contraindications, and compliance with fasting conditions and the patient's age.

The frequency of anaphylaxis related to atracurium has been estimated to be 1/22451 administrations. The frequency of anaphylaxis due to fast-acting myorelaxant is about 10 times higher (succinylcholine: 1/2080 and
rocuronium: 1/2499). The severe over-risk of allergy to the patient linked to a rapid sequence induction does not seem to be justified by the sole risk of SARS-CoV-2 contamination of the caregivers, this risk being low when protective measures are well respected (Cf. item 1). Readers are invited to refer to "Guidelines on muscle relaxants and reversal in anaesthesia". In a non-COVID patient, spontaneous ventilation anaesthesia or the use of supraglottic devices such as laryngeal masks is possible.

We insist on the importance during the preoperative checklist to share with the operating theatre staff, in addition to the usual information, the COVID status of the patient which will determine his perioperative circuit and the strategy adopted by the anaesthesia team for airway management.

5.3. Are there any particularities for medication management in the perioperative period?

| R5.3.1 - In the perioperative period, the experts suggest a systematic evaluation of possible drug interactions, particularly in the case of treatment with antiviral drugs. |

Rationale

COVID+ patients are likely to be treated with antivirals. A table of drug interactions with drugs used against SARS-CoV-2 is available online from the University of Liverpool. A summary is provided below for drugs frequently used in the perioperative period (Table 3). The hydroxychloroquine has multiple cardiac adverse events, including significant QT prolongation. Combinations with other drugs that prolong the QT interval, frequently used in the perioperative period such as halogenated drugs, droperidol, ondansetron, or hypothermia related to surgery and anaesthesia may increase the risk of developing a serious arrhythmia, such as ventricular fibrillation. The combination of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, proposed by some, carries a risk of additive/synergistic QT interval prolongation. ECG monitoring is essential.

In addition, the combination of lopinavir/ritonavir carries a risk of overdosage with amide type local anaesthetics (lidocaine, levobupivacaine, bupivacaine, prilocaine, mepivacaine, ropivacaine), ketamine, midazolam, sufentanil, oxycodone or tramadol due to ritonavir-related cytochrome P3A inhibition, but also to underdosage of propofol and morphine due to increased biotransformation of products metabolised by cytochrome P2C9 and P2C19 or by glucuronidation. Remdesivir, tocilizumab, and interferon beta do not show significant interactions with drugs normally used perioperatively, nor do they have cardiac effects.

5.4 Are there any particularities for postoperative care, including outpatient care?

| R5.4.1 - Experts suggest applying the usual strategies for multimodal analgesia and prevention of nausea and vomiting, including outpatient treatment. |
R5.4.2 - Experts suggest taking into account the benefit/risk balance when prescribing postoperative care for patients with COVID-19. The use of NSAIDs should be avoided in COVID+ or suspected patients but remains possible in other cases.

Rationale

Pain and postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV) are the most common complications of the ambulatory route. They are the source of medical consultations and hospitalisation, exposing the patient to a new risk of viral transmission.69

NSAIDs may be associated with worsening of symptoms during respiratory viruses, with an increased risk of empyema.70 Despite recent alerts, there is no scientific evidence to date linking NSAID use to the aggravation of SARS-CoV-2 infection. A precautionary principle applies.71 Thus, in a patient with an established or strongly suspected SARS-CoV-2 infection, the prescription of NSAIDs will be avoided. However, in asymptomatic patients, there appears to be no contraindication to their use if their benefit is established.72,73

Discontinuation of corticosteroids is not recommended in patients on long-term therapy.70 Steroid treatment of patients with COVID-19 is controversial and is not currently recommended.74 The single intraoperative injection of dexamethasone, at the usual recommended doses, does not appear to present an over-risk in the asymptomatic patient.

5.5. Are there any specific considerations for anaesthesia and analgesia in the obstetrical context?

R5.5.1 - Experts suggest that analgesic management of obstetrical labour should not be modified in parturient who are not infected with SARS-CoV-2 or who have an asymptomatic infection.

R5.5.2 - For women with a symptomatic condition, experts suggest eliminating thrombocytopenia prior to epidural analgesia.

R5.5.3 - Experts suggest avoiding nitrous oxide for obstetric labour analgesia during a COVID-19 pandemic.

R5.5.4 - Experts suggest that neuraxial anaesthesia should be preferred for caesarean section. If general anaesthesia is indicated, experts suggest that rapid sequence anaesthesia be performed regardless of the patient’s COVID-19 status.

R5.5.5 - Experts suggest avoiding the postpartum prescription of NSAIDs in COVID+ or highly suspected women.

Rationale

In the context of COVID-19 pandemic, obstetric patients present two particularities.
First, unlike scheduled surgical activities, obstetrical activity in essence cannot be postponed and therefore remained at its usual level at the peak of the pandemic. The organisation of care had to be adapted, with the establishment of specific care channels for women infected with SARS-CoV-2 or suspected of being infected, not only to optimise the care of these women, but also to avoid the contamination of other pregnant women and of caregivers working in maternity wards. These COVID-positive or suspected COVID-positive/non-COVID channels are logically maintained as long as the pandemic persists.

Second, unlike maternal infections with H1N1, SARS-CoV-2 or MERS, cohort studies of pregnant or postpartum women infected with SARS-CoV-2 do not suggest an increased risk of severe forms of infection in the obstetric population. Therefore, there is no need for specific measures for pregnant or postpartum women infected with SARS-CoV-2 (outside those related to the obstetrical setting) as compared with the analgesic and anaesthetic management of patients in the general population infected with SARS-CoV-2.

**Labour analgesia:** The analgesic strategy for obstetrical labour, dominated by epidural analgesia in France, should not be modified in women not infected with coronavirus or presenting a non-severe or asymptomatic infection. Epidural analgesia may even be beneficial in COVID+ parturients, by limiting the exacerbation of respiratory symptoms associated with labour pain, and the use of general anaesthesia for caesarean section during labour. However, given the evidence of haemostasis disorders in severe forms of SARS-CoV-2 infection (mainly thrombocytopenia), it is necessary to check the normality of the haemostasis before epidural analgesia is performed in women with severe COVID-19. The use of inhaled nitrous oxide should be avoided in the context of a COVID-19 pandemic, because of the potential aerosolisation risk associated with this technique, which has limited analgesic efficacy anyway.

**Anaesthesia for caesarean section:** In the general population, it is recommended that locoregional anaesthesia (LRA) should be preferred in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to limit the risk of contamination of healthcare workers, and to optimise the management of drugs used for induction and maintenance of general anaesthesia. Caesarean section anaesthesia is no exception, especially since neuraxial anaesthesia is the first-line technique recommended for scheduled or emergency caesarean section, except in the rare situations requiring foetal extraction in extreme emergency. Indeed, general anaesthesia for pregnant women is associated with higher risks of pulmonary aspiration and difficult intubation as compared with the general population. Finally, post-caesarean section analgesia is of better quality after neuraxial anaesthesia than after general anaesthesia. However, women with severe forms of maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection may request general anaesthesia for caesarean section, especially in case of associated haemostasis abnormalities or major respiratory distress contraindicating neuraxial anaesthesia.

When general anaesthesia is indicated, the technique will be little affected by the COVID-19 status of the pregnant woman, and quite similar to the anaesthesia technique recommended outside the obstetrical setting in
COVID+ or suspect patients: If extubation is envisaged, it will be performed in the operating theatre, with a limited number of people present in the room; finally, in the absence of need for postoperative transfer to the ICU, postoperative monitoring will be organised in order to limit patient movements and to avoid the risk of contamination (in the operating theatre or labour ward for example).

Post-caesarean section analgesia follows the same rules of adaptation according to COVID status as for the general population. For non-COVID women, the analgesia strategy will not be changed from the usual management of women undergoing caesarean section. For women with SARS-CoV-2 infection, the postoperative use of NSAIDs should be avoided.

In view of the increased risk of thromboembolic events observed in patients infected with COVID-19 and in pregnant women, the indications for thromboprophylaxis should be extended for pregnant and postpartum COVID+ women, including after vaginal delivery, as proposed by the CARO-CNGOF and the GIHT.

6. SPECIFIC HOSPITALISATION PATHWAYS

The resumption of surgical activity during the COVID-19 outbreak exposes no-COVID-19 patients and healthcare workers to contamination. The following expert proposals should be discussed within each institution in a collegial manner (Extended Executive Board, Operating Theatre Committee, Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee) and lead to protocols that take into account the specific characteristics of each institution (architectural constraints, recruitment) and the local incidence of COVID-19 infection. Appropriate signage has to be applied throughout the specific COVID-19 pathway.

6.1. Which specific pathway for the management of COVID+ patients?

| R6.1.1 – Experts suggest, for hospitals treating adults and paediatric patients COVID+, that a specific COVID+ pathway be implemented for their management, from the time they are admitted until they leave the operating theatre or the intensive care unit. |
| This pathway must be secure (with adequate protective measures for patients and health workers); identified with visible signage; dimensioned to limit interference with conventional pathways; contain at least one identified postoperative room, in particular for intensive care unit (Figure 4). |

Rationale

Surgery remains possible for COVID+ patients in case of emergency or decrease in prognosis. The infectiousness of COVID+ patients requires the establishment of dedicated pathway, using 5 concepts:
1. security: healthcare workers are among the people most at risk of contamination, and should be protected (cf. 1); similarly, other patients must be protected in the establishment by a specific pathway used for COVID+ patients;
2. the signalling of the pathway with explicit and uniform signage warning the health workers the presence of a COVID+ patients in the interventional room;
3. the optimisation of the pathway to isolate the COVID+ patients from others as much as possible using analysis of inflow and outflow of patients to avoid the crossing of COVID+ patients with others;
4. the identification of one or more operating theatres dedicated to the care of COVID+ patients using dedicated materials;

After surgery, postoperative care should be conducted in dedicated units for COVID+ patients in surgical unit or ICU unit using cohorting.  

R6.1.2 – Experts suggest that, in addition to the extubation of adult and paediatric COVID+ patients in the operating theatre, their post-interventional care should be ensured, as far as possible, in the operating theatre or in another COVID+ dedicated protected area.

Rationale

Cough frequently occurred following extubation, which is at high risk of spread of SARS-CoV-2, explaining a dissemination until 8 meters while some methods have been described to decrease the risk of dissemination during the extubation procedure, health workers should use PPE (especially N95 or FFP2 respirator and face shield). To protect other patients and health workers, it seems preferable to conduct the extubation and post-interventional care in the interventional room or in a dedicated protected area. A surgical mask should be placed on the face of adult patients following extubation while nasal oxygenation could be used. For paediatric COVID+ patients, the surgical mask use could be difficult.

6.2. Which specific pathway for the management of non-COVID patients?

R6.2.1 – Experts suggest that adult and paediatric non-COVID patients undergoing scheduled surgery (outpatient, conventional or heavy surgery requiring critical postoperative care) should be managed in an isolated pathway from the COVID+. The entire care pathway for these patients must comply with the protective measures mentioned above.

Rationale

In the context of non-COVID patients management in the operating theatre, the aim of this guideline was to avoid both the occurrence of nosocomial SARS-CoV-2 infection and the contamination of caregivers by asymptomatic patients. For any planned surgical procedure, the risk/benefit balance must be discussed in a multidisciplinary
manner, given the probably high postoperative morbidity and mortality in this epidemic context. Management of “non-COVID” patients must be considered in a specific pathway. This pathway covers the entire patient’s hospitalisation day: from the anaesthesia consultation to discharge from the hospital after surgery, following the guidelines for protection (chapter 1).

R6.2.2 – Experts suggest that for both adults and children, priority should be given to outpatient treatment and enhanced recovery after surgery as much as possible.

Rationale

In the context of COVID-19 outbreak, outpatient management should be considered and preferred to conventional hospitalisation when feasible. Outpatient management reduces the length of stay, thereby reduces the risk of patient exposure and the risk of contamination in case of asymptomatic infection. Outpatient management of surgical emergencies should be considered whenever possible.

Outpatient pathways for resumption of activity during the pandemic period need to consider several points:

1/ the planning and convocation schedules should be staggered to avoid waiting times and gathering of patient;

2/ the use of single or isolated rooms should be preferred to wait or exit lounges;

3/ Limit admissions in the postoperative recovery room must be applied as much as possible, in particular after performing locoregional anaesthesia.

Depending on the local outpatient surgery units, this recommendation may limit the number of patients treated. Finally, waiting areas for companions should be arranged in order to respect the safe distances. The number of companions should be limited to one person per patient (adult or child).

In case of conventional hospitalisation, enhanced recovery after surgery should be preferred as far as possible in order to reduce, once again, the length of stay. In the same way, hospitalisation on the day of surgery should be considered if the healthcare institution ensures that there is no risk of infected patient by the COVID-19 (for example by a phone call the day before hospitalisation).

7. RESUMPTION OF SURGICAL ACTIVITY AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE END OF LOCKDOWN

7.1. What is the timing and pattern of resumption of surgical activity after the end of lockdown?

R7.1 – Experts suggest considering a timeline for the resumption of elective surgery when authorised by local agencies AND when the facility has an appropriate number of critical/intermediate care and conventional beds,
personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, drugs, blood products, and staff trained to treat all elective patients without resorting to a crisis care organisation.

**Rationale**

The rapidly changing COVID-19 pandemic situation requires a periodic review of the measures taken and an analysis of the clinical, social and economic context derived from each decision.

The resumption of surgical activity will be gradual and spread over time. The objective is to summarise, as a priority and progressively, those activities that prove decisive in limiting the loss of chance for patients awaiting cancer or non-cancer surgery.\(^{93}\)

The gradual deployment of surgical activity in a controlled number of operating theatres will make it possible to achieve efficiency in open operating theatres and facilitate compliance with reinforced hygiene rules to ensure the safety and protection of patients and caregivers.

Experts suggest that public and private facilities agree to propose a common approach to the provision of care adapted to the population and regional conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pace of rescheduling elective surgery in children and adults will vary according to geographical location, epidemiological pressure, and the possibility of redeploying staff from critical care to operating theatres. Elements to be evaluated for the resumption of surgical activity are the following:

- **Timing of resumption:** There should be a sustained reduction in the rate of new COVID-19 cases in the geographical area concerned for at least 14 days before the resumption of elective surgery.\(^ {94}\)
- Any resumption must be authorised by the relevant regional and national health authorities.
- Facilities are able to safely treat all patients requiring hospitalisation without the need for a crisis care organisation.
- The facility has an appropriate number of critical and non-critical non-COVID and COVID+ beds, PPE, ventilators, drugs, blood products and all necessary medical and surgical equipment.

The facility has a number of trained and educated staff appropriate to the planned surgical procedures, the patient population and the facility resources. Health care staff fatigue and the impact of stress must be considered in order to perform planned procedures without compromising patient safety or staff safety and well-being.

**7.2. How to coordinate within each institution the resumption of surgical activity after the end of lockdown? (Role and operation of the regulation cell)**
R7.2.1 – Experts suggest setting up in each facility a multidisciplinary weekly regulation committee, expanded according to current constraints, which will collegially establish the operating schedule for the next week according to patient prioritisation and scheduling criteria (Figure 4).

R7.2.2 – Experts suggest that the operating schedule control committee should be composed of those in charge of surgery/anaesthesia-critical care and nursing care in the operating theatre.

R7.2.3 – Experts suggest defining criteria to prioritise patients by specialty (colleges), which should be based on the recommendations provided by colleges or societies and local agencies.

R7.2.4 – Experts suggest conducting an inventory by specialty and by ward of patients waiting or deferred during lockdown to assist in prioritisation and scheduling.

Rationale:

Experts suggest setting up, in each facility, a multidisciplinary surgical activities regulation committee, expanded according to the constraints related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This regulatory committee meet weekly and is in charge of making decisions on the production of a restricted operating schedule consistent with the other guidelines. Depending on the size of the facility, several regulatory committees may exist, coordinated by a central regulatory committee. The composition of the regulatory committee must, as a minimum, include the following persons and coordinate with the management of the facility:

- a surgeon
- an anaesthesiologist-intensivist
- an operating theatre regulator
- and/or a surgical planning regulator
- and/or a medical coordinator of the operating theatre.

At the time of the meeting, the regulatory committee must know the facility's capacity in terms of downstream critical/intermediate care and conventional beds, the stocks of PPE, drugs and blood products, as well as the equipment needed to carry out the intervention. Regulatory committee’s decisions must be documented and should account for the following:

- List of previously cancelled and postponed cases, by specialty and ward.
- Objective assessment of priorities (e.g. MeNTS instrument) with a proposed maximum rescheduling time not to be exceeded by the different specialties (Figure 4).
- Prioritisation of specialties (oncology especially).
- Defining operating shifts during the day (e.g. duration of opening hours, type of surgery).
– Identification of essential health professionals and medical device representatives by procedure.

– Strategy for the gradual opening of intervention rooms:
  
  • Identify the capacity objective for activity’s resumption (for example, 25% or 50% of the usual activity).
  
  • Ambulatory patients come before those who are hospitalised.
  
  • The simultaneous opening of all operating theatres requires more staff, downstream critical and conventional care beds, PPE, drugs and blood products, as well as the equipment needed to perform the procedure.

To gradually increase the activity, the regulation committee will have to ensure the following elements:

– Availability of staff according to the workload (surgeons, anaesthesiologist-intensivist, nursing, housekeeping, engineering staff, sterile processing...).

– Availability of "associated" staff (e.g. radiology, pathology...)

– Delivery of needed equipment, consumables, medical devices (e.g. anaesthesia-intensive care drugs, sutures, single-use or disposable surgical instruments...).

– Sufficient availability of critical/intermediate care and conventional beds, ventilators for the expected postoperative care.

– Training of new staff.

  The criteria for prioritising the surgeries to be scheduled will be based on:

– Criteria of emergency or non-deferrable surgeries (essential surgery). Triage remains as important at this stage as during lockdown.

– An inventory and reassessment by surgeons of patients who could not be operated during lockdown to validate whether their status may have changed from deferrable to non-deferrable.

– The presence of risk factors for increased susceptibility to SARS-Cov-2 infection and severity.

– Clinical evaluation on a case-by-case basis depending on whether the patient has reached the tolerance limits of their disease (non-deferrable) either by disease progression, risk of decompensation or pain or by the age of the child in paediatric.

– The risk/benefit balance of postoperative exposure of immunocompromised patients (+/- oncological criteria) and viral risk.
The perioperative risk for patients in the virus incubation phase.  

7.3. What assessment of the resumption of surgical activity after end of lockdown based on updated data?

R7.3.1 – Experts suggest that policies and procedures, within each institution, should be re-evaluated frequently, based on COVID-19 related data collected, resources, trials and other clinical information.

Rationale

Institutions must collect and use relevant data completed by data from local authorities and government agencies, where appropriate:

- COVID-19 numbers (screening, positive cases, availability of inpatient and critical care beds, intubated patients, patients requiring intervention/procedure, new cases, deaths, COVID+ caregivers, location, follow-up, isolation and quarantine policy).
- Availability of the facility's beds, PPE, critical care, drugs and ventilators.
- Quality of care metrics (mortality, complications, readmission, errors, near misses, other - especially in the context of increased activity).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors want to thank all the reviewers from others medical specialties who brought their expertise on several fields of these recommendations: Christophe Dadure (Department of paediatric anaesthesia, CHU de Lapeyronie, Montpellier) Florence Fenollar (Infection Control Committee, IHU – Méditerranée Infection, Marseille), Beatrice Clarivet (Hygiene Operational Unit, Lapeyronie Hospital, Montpellier), Frédéric Barbut (Hygiene Operational Unit, St Antoine Hospital, Paris), Anne Laffargue (Department of paediatric anaesthesia, Jeanne de Flandre hospital, Lille), Antoine Khalil (Radiology, Bichat-Claude Bernard Hospital, Paris), Karine Lacombe (Infectious Diseases Department, St Antoine Hospital, Paris), and Clémence Richaud (Infection Control Committee, Institut Mutualiste Monsouris, Paris).
REFERENCES

1. Greenland JR, Michelow MD, Wang L, London MJ: COVID-19 Infection: Implications for Perioperative and Critical Care Physicians. Anesthesiology 2020:1 doi:10.1097/ALN.0000000000003303

2. The Lancet: COVID-19: protecting health-care workers. The Lancet 2020; 395:922

3. Chang D, Xu H, Rebaza A, Sharma L, Dela Cruz CS: Protecting health-care workers from subclinical coronavirus infection. Lancet Respir Med 2020; 8:e13

4. Food and Drug Administration: « N95 Respirators and Surgical Masks (Face Masks) », 11 mars 2020 at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-and-surgical-masks-face-masks>

5. MacIntyre CR, Wang Q, Cauchemez S, Seale H, Dwyer DE, Yang P, Shi W, Gao Z, Pang X, Zhang Y, Wang X, Duan W, Rahman B, Ferguson N: A cluster randomized clinical trial comparing fit-tested and non-fit-tested N95 respirators to medical masks to prevent respiratory virus infection in health care workers: RCT of face masks in health workers. Influenza Other Respir Viruses 2011; 5:170–9

6. MacIntyre CR, Wang Q, Seale H, Yang P, Shi W, Gao Z, Rahman B, Zhang Y, Wang X, Newall AT, Heywood A, Dwyer DE: A Randomized Clinical Trial of Three Options for N95 Respirators and Medical Masks in Health Workers. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2013; 187:960–6

7. Loeb M, Dafoe N, Mahony J, John M, Sarabia A, Glavin V, Webby R, Smieja M, Earn DJD, Chong S, Webb A, Walter SD: Surgical Mask vs N95 Respirator for Preventing Influenza Among Health Care Workers: A Randomized Trial. JAMA 2009; 302:1865

8. Radonovich LJ, Simberkoff MS, Bessesen MT, Brown AC, Cummings DAT, Gaydos CA, Los JG, Krosche AE, Gibert CL, Gorse GJ, Nyquist A-C, Reich NG, Rodriguez-Barradas MC, Price CS, Perl TM, for the ResPECT investigators: N95 Respirators vs Medical Masks for Preventing Influenza Among Health Care Personnel: A Randomized Clinical Trial. JAMA 2019; 322:824

9. Bartoszko JJ, Farooqi MAM, Alhazzani W, Loeb M: Medical masks vs N95 respirators for preventing COVID-19 in healthcare workers: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized trials. Influenza Other Respir Viruses 2020:irv.12745 doi:10.1111/irv.12745

10. SF2H et SPILF: Avis de la SF2H et SPILF du 04/03/2020 relatif aux indications du port des masques chirurgicaux et des appareils de protection respiratoire de type FFP2 pour les professionnels de santé. at <https://www.sf2h.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Avis-Masque-SF2H-SPILF-04.03.2020.pdf>
11. Milton DK, Fabian MP, Cowling BJ, Grantham ML, McDevitt JJ: Influenza Virus Aerosols in Human Exhaled Breath: Particle Size, Culturability, and Effect of Surgical Masks. PLoS Pathog Edited by Fouchier RAM. 2013; 9:e1003205

12. Dai X: Peking University Hospital Wang Guangfa disclosed treatment status on Weibo and suspected infection without wearing goggles. at <http://www.bjnews.com.cn/news/2020/01/23/678189.html>

13. Belser JA, Rota PA, Tumpey TM: Ocular Tropism of Respiratory Viruses. Microbiol Mol Biol Rev 2013; 77:144–56

14. Seah I, Agrawal R: Can the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Affect the Eyes? A Review of Coronaviruses and Ocular Implications in Humans and Animals. Ocul Immunol Inflamm 2020; 28:391–5

15. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): “Workplace Safety & Health Topics. Eye Protection for Infection Control.” at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/eye/eye-infectious.html>

16. Lindsley WG, Noti JD, Blachere FM, Szalajda JV, Beezhold DH: Efficacy of Face Shields Against Cough Aerosol Droplets from a Cough Simulator. J Occup Environ Hyg 2014; 11:509–18

17. Shoham S, Acuna-Villaorduna C, Cotton M, Hardwick M: “Comparison of Protection against Ocular Contamination with Disposable Eyewear Products.” at <http://www.medonyx.com/media/MedstarStudySummary.pdf>

18. SF2H: Avis de la SF2H du 14/03/2020 relatif aux conditions de prolongation du port ou de réutilisation des masques chirurgicaux et des appareils de protection respiratoire de type FFP2 pour les professionnels de santé at <https://sfar.org/download/avis-relatif-aux-conditions-de-prolongation-du-port-ou-de-reutilisation-des-masques-chirurgicaux-et-des-appareils-de-protection-respiratoire-de-type-ffp2-pour-les-professionnels-de-sante/?wpdmdl=25378&refresh=5eb802d7bfd191589117655>

19. World Health Organization: How to protect yourself when travelling during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWzbArPgo-o>

20. Centers for Disease Control: Travelers from countries with widespread sustained (ongoing) transmission arriving in the United States. at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

21. Scharfman BE, Techet AH, Bush JWM, Bourouiba L: Visualization of sneeze ejecta: steps of fluid fragmentation leading to respiratory droplets. Exp Fluids 2016; 57:24

22. Bourouiba L: Turbulent Gas Clouds and Respiratory Pathogen Emissions: Potential Implications for Reducing Transmission of COVID-19. JAMA 2020 doi:10.1001/jama.2020.4756
23. Ong SWX, Tan YK, Chia PY, Lee TH, Ng OT, Wong MSY, Marimuthu K: Air, Surface Environmental, and Personal Protective Equipment Contamination by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) From a Symptomatic Patient. JAMA 2020; 323:1610

24. SFAR - SRLF: Recommandations d’experts portant sur la prise en charge en réanimation des patients en période d’épidémie à SARS-CoV2 at <https://sfar.org/download/recommandations-dexperts-portant-sur-la prise-en-charge-en-reanimation-des-patients-en-periode-depandemia-a-sars-cov2/?wpdmdl=25387&refresh=5eb806a26930c1589118626>

25. Bai Y, Yao L, Wei T, Tian F, Jin D-Y, Chen L, Wang M: Presumed Asymptomatic Carrier Transmission of COVID-19. JAMA 2020; 323:1406

26. Zimmermann P, Curtis N: Coronavirus Infections in Children Including COVID-19: An Overview of the Epidemiology, Clinical Features, Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention Options in Children. Pediatr Infect Dis J 2020; 39:355–68

27. Castagnoli R, Votto M, Licari A, Brambilla I, Bruno R, Perlini S, Rovida F, Baldanti F, Marseglia GL: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Infection in Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review. JAMA Pediatr 2020 doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2020.1467

28. Lu X, Zhang L, Du H, Zhang J, Li YY, Qu J, Zhang W, Wang Y, Bao S, Li Y, Wu C, Liu H, Liu D, Shao J, Peng X, Yang Y, Liu Z, Xiang Y, Zhang F, Silva RM, Pinkerton KE, Shen K, Xiao H, Xu S, Wong GWK: SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Children. N Engl J Med 2020; 382:1663–5

29. Stahel PF: How to risk-stratify elective surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic? Patient Saf Surg 2020; 14:8, s13037-020-00235-9

30. Prachand VN, Milner R, Angelos P, Posner MC, Fung JJ, Agrawal N, Jeevanandam V, Matthews JB: Medically Necessary, Time-Sensitive Procedures: Scoring System to Ethically and Efficiently Manage Resource Scarcity and Provider Risk During the COVID-19 Pandemic. J Am Coll Surg 2020:S1072751520303173 doi:10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2020.04.011

31. Zhang S: What it really means to cancel elective surgeries: to make room for coronavirus patients, hospitals are delaying procedures that would make major differences in people’s lives at <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2020/03/patients-whose-surgeries-are-canceled-because-coronavirus/608176/>

32. Tran K, Cimon K, Severn M, Pessoa-Silva CL, Conly J: Aerosol Generating Procedures and Risk of Transmission of Acute Respiratory Infections to Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review. PLoS ONE Edited by Semple MG. 2012; 7:e35797
33. Raboud J, Shigayeva A, McGeer A, Bontovics E, Chapman M, Gravel D, Henry B, Lapinsky S, Loeb M, McDonald LC, Ofner M, Paton S, Reynolds D, Scales D, Shen S, Simor A, Stewart T, Vearncombe M, Zoutman D, Green K: Risk Factors for SARS Transmission from Patients Requiring Intubation: A Multicentre Investigation in Toronto, Canada. PLoS ONE Edited by Montgomery JM. 2010; 5:e10717

34. Li Y, Peng S, Li L, Wang Q, Ping W, Zhang N, Fu X: Clinical and Transmission Characteristics of Covid-19 — A Retrospective Study of 25 Cases from a Single Thoracic Surgery Department. Curr Med Sci 2020; 40:295–300

35. Chen N, Zhou M, Dong X, Qu J, Gong F, Han Y, Qiu Y, Wang J, Liu Y, Wei Y, Xia J, Yu T, Zhang X, Zhang L: Epidemiological and clinical characteristics of 99 cases of 2019 novel coronavirus pneumonia in Wuhan, China: a descriptive study. The Lancet 2020; 395:507–13

36. Liu K, Chen Y, Lin R, Han K: Clinical features of COVID-19 in elderly patients: A comparison with young and middle-aged patients. J Infect 2020:S016344532030116X doi:10.1016/j.jinf.2020.03.005

37. Rodriguez-Morales AJ, Cardona-Ospina JA, Gutiérrez-Ocampo E, Villamizar-Peña R, Holguin-Rivera Y, Escalera-Anteza JP, Alvarado-Arnez LE, Bonilla-Aldana DK, Franco-Paredes C, Henao-Martínez AF, Paniz-Mondolfi A, Lagos-Grisales GJ, Ramirez-Vallejo E, Suárez JA, Zambrano LI, Villamil-Gómez WE, Balbin-Ramon GJ, Rabaan AA, Harapan H, Dhama K, Nishiura H, Kataoka H, Ahmad T, Sah R: Clinical, laboratory and imaging features of COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Travel Med Infect Dis 2020; 34:101623

38. Zhang J, Dong X, Cao Y, Yuan Y, Yang Y, Yan Y, Akdis CA, Gao Y: Clinical characteristics of 140 patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 in Wuhan, China. Allergy 2020:all.14238 doi:10.1111/all.14238

39. Singh M, Pai M, Kalantri SP: Accuracy of perception and touch for detecting fever in adults: a hospital-based study from a rural, tertiary hospital in Central India. Trop Med Int Health 2003; 8:408–14

40. World Health Organization: Q&A on coronaviruses (COVID-19) at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

41. Guan W, Ni Z, Hu Y, Liang W, Ou C, He J, Liu J, Shan H, Lei C, Hui DSC, Du B, Li L, Zeng G, Yuen K-Y, Chen R, Tang C, Wang T, Chen P, Xiang J, Li S, Wang J, Liang Z, Peng Y, Wei L, Liu Y, Hu Y, Peng P, Wang J, Liu J, Chen Z, et al.: Clinical Characteristics of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in China. N Engl J Med 2020; 382:1708–20

42. Liu F, Xu A, Zhang Y, Xuan W, Yan T, Pan K, Yu W, Zhang J: Patients of COVID-19 may benefit from sustained Lopinavir-combined regimen and the increase of Eosinophil may predict the outcome of COVID-19 progression. Int J Infect Dis 2020; 95:183–91

43. Ai T, Yang Z, Hou H, Zhan C, Chen C, Lv W, Tao Q, Sun Z, Xia L: Correlation of Chest CT and RT-PCR Testing in
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in China: A Report of 1014 Cases. Radiology 2020:200642
doi:10.1148/radiol.2020200642

44. Caruso D, Zerunian M, Polci M, Pucciarelli F, Polidori T, Rucci C, Guido G, Bracci B, Dominici C de, Laghi A: Chest CT Features of COVID-19 in Rome, Italy. Radiology 2020:201237 doi:10.1148/radiol.2020201237

45. French National Authority for Health: The place of serological testing in the management strategy of COVID-19. Recommendations of the French National Authority for Health (HAS). 02/05/2020 at <https://www.has-sante.fr/jcms/p_3179992/fr/place-des-tests-serologiques-dans-la-strategie-de-prise-en-charge-de-la-maladie-covid-19>

46. Montravers P, Lucet J: Propositions pour la prise en charge anesthésique d’un patient suspect ou infecté à Coronavirus COVID-19 at <https://sfar.org/propositions-pour-la-prise-en-charge-anesthesique-dun-patient-suspect-ou-infecte-a-coronavirus-covid-19/>

47. Okba NMA, Müller MA, Li W, Wang C, GeurtsvanKessel CH, Corman VM, Lamers MM, Sikkema RS, Bruin de, Chandler FD, Yazdanpanah Y, Le Hingrat Q, Descamps D, Houhou-Fidouh N, Reusken CBEM, Bosch B-J, Drosten C, Koopmans MPG, Haagmans BL: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2–Specific Antibody Responses in Coronavirus Disease 2019 Patients. Emerg Infect Dis 2020; 26

48. Cheng MP, Papenburg J, Desjardins M, Kanjilal S, Libman M, Dittrich S, Yansouni CP: Diagnostic Testing for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome–Related Coronavirus-2: A Narrative Review. Ann Intern Med 2020 doi:10.7326/M20-1301

49. Xiao S, Wu Y, Liu H: Evolving status of the 2019 novel coronavirus infection: Proposal of conventional serologic assays for disease diagnosis and infection monitoring. J Med Virol 2020; 92:464–7

50. To KK-W, Tsang OT-Y, Leung W-S, Tam AR, Wu T-C, Lung DC, Yip CC-Y, Cai J-P, Chan JM-C, Chik TS-H, Lau DP-L, Choi CY-C, Chen L-L, Chan W-M, Chan K-H, Ip JD, Ng AC-K, Poon RW-S, Luo C-T, Cheng VC-C, Chan JF-W, Hung IF-N, Chen Z, Chen H, Yuen K-Y: Temporal profiles of viral load in posterior oropharyngeal saliva samples and serum antibody responses during infection by SARS-CoV-2: an observational cohort study. Lancet Infect Dis 2020; 20:565–74

51. Zhao J, Yuan Q, Wang H, Liu W, Liao X, Su Y, Wang X, Yuan J, Li T, Li J, Qian S, Hong C, Wang F, Liu Y, Wang Z, He Q, Li Z, He B, Zhang T, Fu Y, Ge S, Liu L, Zhang J, Xia N, Zhang Z: Antibody responses to SARS-CoV-2 in patients of novel coronavirus disease 2019. Clin Infect Dis 2020:ciaa344 doi:10.1093/cid/ciaa344

52. Patel R, Babady E, Theel ES, Storch GA, Pinsky BA, St. George K, Smith TC, Bertuzzi S: Report from the American Society for Microbiology COVID-19 International Summit, 23 March 2020: Value of Diagnostic Testing for SARS–CoV-2/COVID-19. mBio 2020; 11:mBio.00722-20, e00722-20
53. Ludvigsson JF: Systematic review of COVID-19 in children shows milder cases and a better prognosis than adults. Acta Paediatr 2020; 109:1088–95

54. Qiu H, Wu J, Hong L, Luo Y, Song Q, Chen D: Clinical and epidemiological features of 36 children with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Zhejiang, China: an observational cohort study. Lancet Infect Dis 2020;S1473309920301985 doi:10.1016/S1473-3099(20)30198-5

55. Dong Y, Mo X, Hu Y, Qi X, Jiang F, Jiang Z, Tong S: Epidemiology of COVID-19 Among Children in China. Pediatrics 2020:e20200702 doi:10.1542/peds.2020-0702

56. Lee-Archer P, Ungern-Sternberg BS: Pediatric anesthetic implications of COVID-19—A review of current literature. Pediatr Anesth Edited by Ungern-Sternberg BS. 2020:pan.13889 doi:10.1111/pan.13889

57. Matava CT, Kovatsis PG, Summers JL, Castro P, Denning S, Yu J, Lockman JL, Von Ungern-Sternberg B, Sabato S, Lee NK, Ayad I, Mireles S, Lardner D, Whyte S, Szolnoki J, Jagannathan N, Thompson N, Stein ML, Dalesio N, Greenberg R, McCloskey J, Peyton J, Evans F, Haydar B, Reynolds P, Chiao F, Taicher B, Templeton T, Bhalla T, Raman VT, et al.: Pediatric Airway Management in COVID-19 patients - Consensus Guidelines from the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia’s Pediatric Difficult Intubation Collaborative and the Canadian Pediatric Anesthesia Society. Anesth Analg 2020 doi:10.1213/ANE.0000000000004872

58. Soldati G, Smargiassi A, Inchingolo R, Buonsenso D, Perrone T, Briganti DF, Perlini S, Torri E, Mariani A, Mossolani EE, Tursi F, Mento F, Demi L: Proposal for International Standardization of the Use of Lung Ultrasound for Patients With COVID-19: A Simple, Quantitative, Reproducible Method. J Ultrasound Med 2020 doi:10.1002/jum.15285

59. Mullen-Fortino M, Rising KL, Duckworth J, Gwynn V, Sites FD, Hollander JE: Presurgical Assessment Using Telemedicine Technology: Impact on Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Patient Experience of Care. Telemed E-Health 2019; 25:137–42

60. Tam A, Leung A, O’Callaghan C, Fagermo N: Role of telehealth in perioperative medicine for regional and rural patients in Queensland: Telehealth in perioperative medicine. Intern Med J 2017; 47:933–7

61. World Health Organization: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) technical guidance: infection prevention and control at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/infection-prevention-and-control>

62. Lie SA, Wong SW, Wong LT, Wong TGL, Chong SY: Practical considerations for performing regional anesthesia: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Can J Anesth Can Anesth 2020 doi:10.1007/s12630-020-01637-0

63. Zhong Q, Liu Y, Luo Q, Zou YF, Jiang HX, Li H, Zhang JJ, Li Z, Yang X, Ma M, Tang LJ, Chen YY, Zheng F, Ke JJ,
Zhang ZZ: Spinal anaesthesia for patients with coronavirus disease 2019 and possible transmission rates in anaesthetists: retrospective, single-centre, observational cohort study. Br J Anaesth 2020:S0007091220301616 doi:10.1016/j.bja.2020.03.007

64. Tan TK: How Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Affected the Department of Anaesthesia at Singapore General Hospital. Anaesth Intensive Care 2004; 32:394–400

65. White PF: Use of cerebral monitoring during anaesthesia: Effect on recovery profile. Best Pract Res Clin Anaesthesiol 2006; 20:181–9

66. Plaud B, Baillard C, Bourgain J-L, Bourroche G, Desplanque L, Devys J-M, Fletcher D, Fuchs-Buder T, Lebuffe G, Meistelman C, Motamed C, Raft J, Servin F, Sirieix D, Slim K, Velly L, Verdonk F, Debaene B: Guidelines on muscle relaxants and reversal in anaesthesia. Anaesth Crit Care Pain Med 2020; 39:125–42

67. Reddy JI, Cooke PJ, Schalkwyk JM van, Hannam JA, Fitzharris P, Mitchell SJ: Anaphylaxis Is More Common with Rocuronium and Succinylcholine than with Atracurium: Anesthesiology 2015; 122:39–45

68. University of Liverpool: COVID-19 Drug Interactions at <https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/>

69. Rosero EB, Joshi GP: Hospital readmission after ambulatory laparoscopic cholecystectomy: incidence and predictors. J Surg Res 2017; 219:108–15

70. Le Bourgeois M, Ferroni A, Leruez-Ville M, Varon E, Thumerelle C, Brémont F, Fayon MJ, Delacourt C, Ligier C, Watier L, Guillemot D, Blic J de, Deschildre A, Lemanac’h G, Bui S, Marguet C, Lubrano M, Labbé A, Petit I, Faye A, Lorrot M, Mahdi F, Dubus J-C, Bosdure E, Pin I, Llerena C, Derelle J, Schweitzer C, Epaud R, Nathan N, et al.: Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug without Antibiotics for Acute Viral Infection Increases the Empyema Risk in Children: A Matched Case-Control Study. J Pediatr 2016; 175:47-53.e3

71. Direction générale de la Santé: Utilisation d’AINS chez des patients atteints Covid-19 at <https://dgs-urgent.sante.gouv.fr/dgsurgent/inter/detailsMessageBuilder.do?id=30500&cmd=visualiserMessage>

72. FitzGerald GA: Misguided drug advice for COVID-19. Science Edited by Sills J. 2020; 367:1434.1-1434

73. Little P: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and covid-19. BMJ 2020:m1185 doi:10.1136/bmj.m1185

74. Russell CD, Millar JE, Baillie JK: Clinical evidence does not support corticosteroid treatment for 2019-nCoV lung injury. The Lancet 2020; 395:473–5

75. Yu N, Li W, Kang Q, Xiong Z, Wang S, Lin X, Liu Y, Xiao J, Liu H, Deng D, Chen S, Zeng W, Feng L, Wu J: Clinical features and obstetric and neonatal outcomes of pregnant patients with COVID-19 in Wuhan, China: a retrospective, single-centre, descriptive study. Lancet Infect Dis 2020; 20:559–64
76. Breslin N, Baptiste C, Gyamfi-Bannerman C, Miller R, Martinez R, Bernstein K, Ring L, Landau R, Purisch S, Friedman AM, Fuchs K, Sutton D, Andrikopoulos M, Rupley D, Sheen J-J, Aubey J, Zork N, Moroz L, Mourad M, Wapner R, Simpson LL, D’Alton ME, Goffman D: Coronavirus disease 2019 infection among asymptomatic and symptomatic pregnant women: two weeks of confirmed presentations to an affiliated pair of New York City hospitals. Am J Obstet Gynecol MFM 2020:100118 doi:10.1016/j.ajogmf.2020.100118

77. Lippi G, Plebani M, Henry BM: Thrombocytopenia is associated with severe coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infections: A meta-analysis. Clin Chim Acta 2020; 506:145–8

78. Keita-Meyer H, Mandelbrot L, Mercier F, Benhamou D: Gestion du risque thromboembolique chez les femmes enceintes covid-19 + ou suspectes at <http://spiralconnect.univ-lyon1.fr/spiral-files/download?mode=inline&data=7597723>

79. Susen S, Tacquard C, Godon A, Mansour A, Garrigue D, Nguyen P, Godier A, Testa S, Albaladejo P, Gruel Y: Traitement anticoagulant pour la prévention du risque thrombotique chez un patient hospitalisé avec Covid-19 et surveillance de l’hémostase at <https://sfar.org/download/traitement-anticoagulant-pour-la-prevention-du-risque-thrombotique-chez-un-patient-hospitalise-avec-covid-19-et-surveillance-de-lhemostase/?wpdmdl=25834&refresh=5eb82cab16b281589128363>

80. Coccolini F, Perrone G, Chiarugi M, Di Marzo F, Ansaloni L, Scandroglio I, Marini P, Zago M, De Paolis P, Forfori F, Agresta F, Puzziello A, D’Ugo B, Bignami E, Bellini V, Vitali P, Petrini F, Pifferi B, Corradi F, Tarasconi A, Pattonieri V, Bonati E, Tritapepe L, Agnoletti V, Corbella D, Sartelli M, Catena F: Surgery in COVID-19 patients: operational directives. World J Emerg Surg 2020; 15:25

81. Carenzo L, Costantini E, Greco M, Barra FL, Rendiniello V, Mainetti M, Bui R, Zanella A, Grasselli G, Lagioia M, Protti A, Cecconi M: Hospital surge capacity in a tertiary emergency referral centre during the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy. Anaesthesia 2020:anae.15072 doi:10.1111/anae.15072

82. Tung A, Fergusson NA, Ng N, Hu V, Dormuth C, Griesdale DEG: Medications to reduce emergence coughing after general anaesthesia with tracheal intubation: a systematic review and network meta-analysis. Br J Anaesth 2020; 124:480–95

83. Bourouiba L: A Sneeze. N Engl J Med 2016; 375:e15

84. Matava CT, Yu J, Denning S: Clear plastic drapes may be effective at limiting aerosolization and droplet spray during extubation: implications for COVID-19. Can J Anesth Can Anesth 2020 doi:10.1007/s12630-020-01649-w

85. Lai YY, Chang CM: A carton-made protective shield for suspicious/confirmed COVID-19 intubation and extubation during surgery: Anesth Analg 2020:1 doi:10.1213/ANE.0000000000004869
86. Chen X, Liu Y, Gong Y, Guo X, Zuo M, Li J, Shi W, Li H, Xu X, Mi W, Huang Y: Perioperative Management of Patients Infected with the Novel Coronavirus: Recommendation from the Joint Task Force of the Chinese Society of Anesthesiology and the Chinese Association of Anesthesiologists. Anesthesiology 2020:1 doi:10.1097/ALN.0000000000003301

87. Lei S, Jiang F, Su W, Chen C, Chen J, Mei W, Zhan L-Y, Jia Y, Zhang L, Liu D, Xia Z-Y, Xia Z: Clinical characteristics and outcomes of patients undergoing surgeries during the incubation period of COVID-19 infection. EClinicalMedicine 2020; 21:100331

88. He X, Lau EHY, Wu P, Deng X, Wang J, Hao X, Lau YC, Wong JY, Guan Y, Tan X, Mo X, Chen Y, Liao B, Chen W, Hu F, Zhang Q, Zhong M, Wu Y, Zhao L, Zhang F, Cowling BJ, Li F, Leung GM: Temporal dynamics in viral shedding and transmissibility of COVID-19. Nat Med 2020 doi:10.1038/s41591-020-0869-5

89. Wong J, Goh QY, Tan Z, Lie SA, Tay YC, Ng SY, Soh CR: Preparing for a COVID-19 pandemic: a review of operating room outbreak response measures in a large tertiary hospital in Singapore. Can J Anesth Can Anesth 2020 doi:10.1007/s12630-020-01620-9

90. Rajan N, Joshi GP: The COVID-19: Role of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities in This Global Pandemic. Anesth Analg 2020:1 doi:10.1213/ANE.0000000000004847

91. Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (ASCA): Statement from the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association regarding Elective Surgery and COVID-19 at <https://www.ascassociation.org/asca/resourcecenter/latestnewsresourcecenter/covid-19/covid-19-statement>

92. DePhillipo NN, Larson CM, O’Neill OR, LaPrade RF: Guidelines for Ambulatory Surgery Centers for the Care of Surgically Necessary/Time-Sensitive Orthopaedic Cases during the COVID-19 Pandemic: J Bone Jt Surg 2020:1 doi:10.2106/JBJS.20.00489

93. Brindle M, Doherty G, Lillemoe K: Approaching surgical triage during the COVID-19 Pandemic at <https://journals.lww.com/annalsofsurgery/Documents/Approaching%20surgical%20tria%20during%20the%20COVID-19%20Pandemic.pdf>

94. American College of Surgeons, American Society of Anesthesiologists: Joint Statement: Roadmap for Resuming Elective Surgery after COVID-19 Pandemic at <https://www.asahq.org/about-asa/newsroom/news-releases/2020/04/joint-statement-on-elective-surgery-after-covid-19-pandemic>

95. Besnier E, Tuech J-J, Schwarz L: We Asked the Experts: Covid-19 Outbreak: Is There Still a Place for Scheduled Surgery? “Reflection from Pathophysiological Data.” World J Surg 2020; 44:1695–8
Table 1. Personal protective equipment (PPE) depending on the place and the procedures that are performed in adult patients and healthcare professionals.

| SAFETY MEASURES | Preanaesthetic assessment | Operating rooms, interventional platforms? | Recovery room | Critical care units or intermediate care units |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Caring for a known or suspected case of COVID-19 | Hand disinfection with a hydro-alcoholic based hand gel, wearing a surgical mask type I/II and safety goggles. Surfaces and material disinfection. | N95 or FFP2 respirator, head cap, fluid resistant long-sleeved gown (or failing that a surgical gown) + plastic apron, disposable gloves and a face shield (or failing that safety goggles). A dedicated COVID-19 operating theatre or an operating room that is well identified with a poster on the entrance door. | N95 or FFP2 respirator, head cap, fluid resistant long-sleeved gown (or failing that a surgical gown) + plastic apron, disposable gloves and a face shield (or failing that safety goggles). PARPs mask when performing high transmission risk procedures (tracheotomy). Setting up a closed suction system when the patient is intubated and if possible. | |
| Caring for non-COVID patient | Hand disinfection with a hydro-alcoholic based hand gel, surgical mask type I/II. Surfaces and material disinfection. | Extubation (not recommended in recovery rooms): N95 or FFP2 respirator, head cap, plastic apron, disposable gloves and a face shield (or failing that, safety goggles). | Surgical mask type I/II. In the case of a body fluid exposition: head cap + face shield or safety goggles. When managing the airway (intubation/extubation, endotracheal suctioning, bronchoscopy): N95 or FFP2 | |
| PATIENT | Known or suspected case of COVID-19 | Non-COVID patients |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Hand disinfection with a hydro-alcoholic based hand gel, a surgical mask type II/IIR. | Patients must wear a surgical mask type II/IIR when leaving their unit and heading for the OR. Coded COVID-19 dedicated routes should be followed. | Surgical mask type II/IIR. |
| Hand disinfection with a hydro-alcoholic based hand gel, surgical mask type II/IIR. | Patients should wear a surgical mask type II/IIR when leaving their unit and heading for the OR. | After extubation, patients should wear a surgical mask type II/IIR. |
| | | No mask, except if the patient is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms => surgical mask type II/IIR. |
Table 2. Criteria for assessing the benefit / risk ratio of surgical intervention in a patient during the COVID-19 pandemic.

| Factors related to the patient | ASA class |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
|                                | Obesity (IMC ≥ 30 kg/m²) |
|                                | Age (>65 years, <1 year) |
|                                | Underlying respiratory (asthma, COPD, cystic fibrosis) or cardiovascular (hypertension, coronary artery disease and chronic heart failure) pathology |
|                                | Obstructive sleep apnea syndrome |
|                                | Diabetes |
|                                | Immunosuppression |
| Factors related to the disease | Possible therapeutic alternatives |
|                                | Loss of luck in the absence of intervention |
| Factors related to the procedure | Operating time |
|                                 | Duration of stay |
|                                  | Need for critical care |
|                                   | Transfusion needs |
|                                   | Number of staff needed in the operating room |
|                                   | Anaesthesia modality |
|                                   | Surgery site |
Table 3. Possible drug interactions between drugs used in perioperative care and anti-SARS-CoV-2, based on https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/

|                        | Lopinavir / Ritonavir | Remdesivir | Hydroxychloroquine | Tocilizumab | Interferon beta |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Bupivacaine            | ↑                     | ←→        | ←→                 | ↓           | ←→            |
| Lidocaine              | ↑                     | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Propofol               | ↓❤                    | ←→        | ←→❤                | ←→         | ←→            |
| Kétamine               | ↑                     | ←→        | ←→                 | ↓           | ←→            |
| Thiopental             | ↑                     | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Midazolam IV           | ↑                     | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Midazolam per os       | ↑                     | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Sevoflurane            | ←→❤                  | □          | ←→❤                | □           | □              |
| Desflurane             | ←→                   | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Clonidine              | ←→                   | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Dexmedetomidine        | ↓❤                    | ←→        | ←→❤                | ←→         | ←→            |
| Suxamethonium          | ←→                   | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Vecuronium             | ←→                   | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Atracurium             | ←→                   | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Cis-atracturium        | ←→                   | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Rocuronium             | ↑                     | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Fentanyl               | ↑                     | ←→        | ←→                 | ↓           | ←→            |
| Remifentanil           | ←→                   | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Sufentanil             | ↑                     | ←→        | ←→                 | ↓           | ←→            |
| Morphine               | ↓                     | ←→        | ←→                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Hydrocodone            | ↓↑❤                   | ←→        | ↑❤                 | ←→         | ←→            |
| Drug               | ↑  | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
|--------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Codeine            | ↑  | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Dextropropoxyphene | ↑  | ←→ | ←→ | ↓  | ←→ |
| Oxycodone          | ↑ (160%) | ←→ | ←→ | ↓  | ←→ |
| Tramadol           | ↑❤️ | ←→ | ←→❤️ | ←→❤️ | ←→❤️ |
| Paracetamol        | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Diclofenac         | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Ibuprofene         | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Enoxaparine        | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Dabigatran         | ↓ ou ↑ | ←→ | ↑  | ←→ | ←→ |
| Rivaroxaban        | ↑  | ←→ | ↑  | ↓  | ←→ |
| Apixaban           | ↑  | ←→ | ↑  | ↓  | ←→ |
| Fondaparinux       | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Heparine           | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Haloperidol        | ↑❤️ | ←→ | ←→❤️ | ←→❤️ | ←→❤️ |
| Alprazolam         | ↑  | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Bromazepam         | ↑  | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Diazepam           | ↑  | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Oxazepam           | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Zolpidem           | ↑  | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Hydroxyzine        | ↑  | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Droperidol         | ↑❤️ | ←→ | ←→❤️ | ←→❤️ | ←→❤️ |
| Odansetron         | ↑❤️ | ←→ | ←→❤️ | ←→❤️ | ←→❤️ |
| Dexamethasone      | ↑ + ‖ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ | ←→ |
| Interaction Type                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Significant interaction, association not recommended|
| Possible interaction, dose adjustment or monitoring recommended |
| Low intensity interaction, no adjustment required    |
| No significant interaction                           |
| ❤ Risk of cardiac toxicity                           |
| ↑ Increased drug exposure                             |
| ↓ Decreased drug exposure                             |
| ⊥ Decrease in antiviral exposure                      |
| ←→ No effect                                         |
Figure 1: Scheduled Surgery

High suspicion* of Covid-19

COVID-19 PCR preoperatively on naso-pharyngeal swab + blood sampling for CBC and CRP

Postponement of surgery
for at least 14 days (and 24 days in immunocompromised patients or in case of severe form of COVID-19) since onset of symptoms

Yes No

PCR + PCR -

Consider as Covid-19 infection
Discuss 1) a chest CT-scan, and/or 2) a control of the PCR on a new sample, and/or 3) a serology*

Unlikely Covid-19 infection
Postponement of surgery until symptom relief

Postponement of surgery
for at least 14 days (and 24 days in immunocompromised patients or in case of severe form of COVID-19) since onset of symptoms

Clinical presentation still evocative?
No other infectious diagnosis?
Lymphopenia +/- eosinopenia +/- high CRP?

Yes No

PCR + PCR -

Low suspicion** of Covid-19

Close contact with a suspected or confirmed Covid-19 patient within the last 15 days?
OR Subject at risk of severe form of Covid-19***

Yes No

Surgery at risk of aerosolisation?***
OR Major surgery?
OR Close contact with a confirmed Covid-19 within the last 15 days?

Asymptomatic patient

Intervention

PCR + PCR -

Yes No

COVID-19 PCR on naso-pharyngeal swab sampled 24h (max 48h) before surgery

Intervention

Standardized questionnaire during the pre-anaesthetic consultation and pre-anaesthetic visit

---

* 21 major symptom and/or 22 minor symptoms
** 1 single minor symptom
*** thoracic surgery with pulmonary resection, ENT surgery, endo-oral surgery, basal skull neurosurgery, rigid bronchoscopy, etc.

- if symptoms have been present from at least 7 to 10 days
- ** as recommended by the French High Council of Public Health
Figure 2:

**Emergency**

- **Standardized questionnaire** before the surgery

**Surgery**

- **Asymptomatic patient**
  - Surgery at risk of aerosolisation ***

**COVID-19 PCR**

- Don't wait for results
  - Discuss preoperative chest CT-scan

**High suspicion**

- of Covid-19
  - Surgery with protective measures for the staff (if 1st area)
  - Specific COVID-19 pathway (if 2nd area)
  - Prefer loco-regional anaesthesia and spontaneous ventilation if possible
  - Non-major surgery
    - Post-anaesthesia recovery in the operating room
    - Transfer to the wards if no hypoxia, polyneous, dyspnoea
  - Major surgery
    - Intervention
      - Postoperative surveillance in the ICU for 24-48h
      - Re-evaluation after PCR results

- Low suspicion**
  - of Covid-19
  - Close contact with a suspected or confirmed Covid-19 patient within the last 15 days? OR Subject at risk of severe form of Covid-19 **

**COVID-19 PCR**

- Don't wait for results
  - Intervention
    - Enhanced surveillance for 24-48h in the wards for non-major surgery, if not in the ICU
    - Re-evaluation after PCR results

**COVID-19 PCR**

- Don't wait for results
  - Intervention
    - Postoperative surveillance in the ICU for 24-48h
    - Re-evaluation after PCR results

---

**Symptoms**

- ≥2 major symptoms and/or ≥2 minor symptoms
- 1 single minor symptom
- Post-anaesthesia recovery in the operating room
- Dedicated space isolated from other patients in the recovery room with a face mask for the patient if >60 min
- Thoracic surgery with pulmonary resection, ENT surgery, endobronchial surgery, basal skull neurosurgery, rigid bronchoscopy, etc.

---

*Refer to the French High Council of Public Health for guidance.*
FIGURE 3. Suggested patient pathway based on COVID status
COVID +

Presential or Teleconsultation (depending on eligibility)

COVID Screening

Patient
II or IIR During hospitalization

Anaesthesia Team Protection (during operative room)

Specific COVID+ pathway

COVID+ pathway

Identification COVID+
Intervention room armed with the COVID+ equipment (Prefer Loco-regional anaesthesia)

Extubation in operative room

Post-operative room in theatre (or specific area)

Back to COVID+ area (hospitalization, outpatient, ICU)

non-COVID

Presential or Teleconsultation (depending on eligibility)

Patient
II ou IIR During hospitalization

Anaesthesia Team Protection (Intubation/extubation - risk of aerosolization)

Operating room non-COVID

Intervention room

Extubation in operative room

Post-operative room

Back to Non-COVID area (hospitalization, outpatient, ICU)
**Figure 4. Interactions of the Multidisciplinary Regulatory Committee**

**AGENCIES**
- Health Regional Agencies
- Administrative Direction Of the Facility

**PRE-OPERATIVE ASSESSMENT**
- Anaesthesia-Critical care wards
- Surgical wards
- Pre-operative Consultations

**REGULATION COMMITTEE OF SURGICAL ACTIVITY**
- Anaesthesiologist-Intensivist / Surgeon
- Operating theatre regulator

**SCHEDULING**
- Operating rooms
- Equipment (PPE)
- Drugs, Blood products, Staff

**ASSOCIATED departments**
- Pharmacy
- Bio-engineering department
- Operating theatre Interventional theatre

**RESSOURCES POST-OPERATIVE PATHWAYS**
- CRITICAL WARD
  - COVID+ non-COVID
  - NON CRITICAL WARD
  - COVID+ non-COVID

[Diagram showing interactions and pathways related to surgical activity and regulatory committee]
