



“Science without conscience is only ruin of the soil”

-F.Rabelais

Dear all;

10-04-2020

It is tough time for all of us. Uncertainties, Fear among patients & doctors, Information overload added with the inconveniences caused by the otherwise necessary lockdown due to Covid has caused lot hardships in delivering surgical care.

We, the association of surgeons of India , Karnataka State Chapter wanted to bring out guidelines to our colleagues on what to do, when, how much to do with what precautions related to surgical care. During the process, realised that there are already many guidelines from WHO, CDC, Ministry of health govt of India , our national bodies like IASG, etc. AMASI and ISA are also preparing their guidelines. Hence it may not only be a futile exercise but may also lead to confusion. And the guidelines rapidly keep changing, ex:SAGES some days back said laparoscopy should be avoided, within a week it changed saying that there is no enough evidence to avoid laparoscopy but due precautions have to be taken.

Some important links / material will be updated in our website kscasi.com

Nevertheless , I would request you to ;

Avoid elective procedures.

Take up only emergencies as it is important to save lives. Find out if better alternatives of intervention are possible in these patients.

Avoid laparoscopic procedures unless you are thoroughly aware about the implications, precautions and well equipped to deal with.

Avoid cautery usage or keep at minimum settings. It is preferable to take measures for smoke evacuation.

Do not deal with any patients with slightest suspicion or positive for COVID in private set up . If you do suspect in post operative period , please do refer them to recognised Covid treatment centres. There is one area of confusion that is use of PPEs. The international bodies recommend all patients to be treated as COVID positive and our Ministry recommending such complete protection in suspected or tested Covid positive patients. I would request you to follow the principles based on incidence / detection of Covid in your area. Imagine a situation in unsuspected patient testing positive postoperatively and the team has not taken precautions.

Having been aware that this is a double edged sword and there cannot be blanket recommendations. Your conscience (quote at top) should guide you for making better decision in your interest, staff interest and risk to other patients/people.

I understand our aim is to save lives of the suffering humans and improve quality of life.

I would also request you all to take care of yourself , your family, your staff and clinical set up as priority. Only when we all are in healthy state, we can take care of others.

I appreciate that many of our colleagues are doing a great job not only coordinating with various authorities but also in their own individual capacity toward innovativeness in making protective materials, educating society and serving the needy public in many different ways.

The fact that it has been declared as national health emergency indicates the seriousness of the problem.

With warm regards and best wishes.

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