

Every year in England and Wales, around 25000 patients undergo an emergency laparotomy (emergency bowel surgery). Emergency laparotomy patients are cared for by a multi-disciplinary team including critical care, anaesthetists and surgeons. During March-September 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected hospitals' service, systems and staffing, disrupting the care of emergency laparotomy patients. This interim report aims to describe the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the care of emergency laparotomy patients during the first national lockdown in 2020.

Executive Summary of COVID-19 Report

Results from March - September 2020

1 10546 patients had emergency laparotomies in England and Wales (13024 in Mar-Sept 2019)



2 867 patients had a perioperative diagnosis of COVID-19



82% of high-risk patients were admitted to critical care (86.4% in 2019)



81.7% of high-risk non-COVID-19 patients were admitted to critical care

84.4% of high-risk COVID-19 positive patients were admitted to critical care

4 96.6% of high-risk patients had consultant surgeon and 93%



had consultant anaesthetist care intraoperatively (94.6% and 92.5% in 2019)

96.8% of COVID-19 positive patients had consultant surgeon and

93.7% had consultant anaesthetist care intra-operatively

5 30-day mortality was
7.2% in non-COVID-19
and 12.5% in
COVID-19 positive
patients (9.0% in 2019)



Median length of stay was 12 days if COVID-19 positive and 9 days for non-COVID-19 patients

(10 days in 2019)





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