

DOES USE OF INTRA-OPERATIVE PPE AFFECT POST OPERATIVE INFECTION RATES IN HIP FRACTURE PATIENTS?

A MERCER¹ P MCCAUGHEY¹, D MCCAULEY², O DIAMOND³

1 - CORE SURGICAL TRAINEE, RVH. 2- TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDIC REGISTRAR, RVH. 3- TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDIC CONSULTANT, RVH

Rationale

COVID-19 was considered endemic in Northern Ireland from 18/03/20. The first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic brought significant change to theatre protocol. Regional guidelines dictated that full PPE had to be donned for all procedures where aerosol generating procedures (AGP) occurred. Additionally, no one was permitted to enter or leave theatre whilst an operation was in progress, or until 20 minutes after an AGP.

This study hypothesized that adopting such protocols may have led to a reduction in post-operative infection in hip fracture patients.

Methods

Multicentre retrospective cohort study comparing post-operative infection and return to theatre rates (<30-days post-op) from 18/03/20 to 27/04/20 with respective period in 2019.

Patients were identified from the Fracture Outcomes Research Department (FORD) database and relevant inpatient episode reviewed via Electronic Care Record (ECR).

Results

464 patients were identified– 261 in 2020 and 203 in 2019.

In 2019, 4 patients (1.5%) returned to theatre within 30-days, however only one was due to wound dehiscence.

In 2020, 1 patient (0.5%) returned to theatre for traumatic wound dehiscence, however they had no documented infection.

There was no difference in post-operative complication rate requiring return to theatre within 30 days between cohorts.

Conclusion

Whilst PPE can be considered important for protection of patients and staff against COVID-19, it may not have significant effect on post operative infection rates.

