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Financial Implications and constrains for Orthopaedics Surgeon and patients undergoing Orthopaedics surgeries during COVID 19

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We read the recently published article “Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery in University Hospitals in Germany: Results of a Nationwide Survey” where the authors reported the financial impact in Germany during the COVID 19.

Jerome et al (1) had reported that the government medical college hospitals, national public health care systems, 70% of private hospitals/nursing homes had suffered a major setback financially; the shortage of manpower forced them to shut down the essential services. Many such hospitals have to furlough their staffs to 25 to 50% and paramedics to 50% of their normal strength and incurred financial constrains varying from 25 to 100% during the lockdown. Doctors and staff employed in the private health sectors faced 50 to 100% salary loss. The suspension of elective surgeries put severe financial strains on the patients, physicians, and the entire health care system in their survey conducted involving 100 Orthopaedics surgeons from 50 countries.

Jerome et al (1) also noted that a negative economy and financial loss in the private sectors, will compensatory by increasing the cost for all surgical procedures and services rendered to the patients. As the medical systems look ahead to resume their elective cases, they require abundant support from the local government and insurance providers, and ways of quick settlements to the hospital. They argued that many challenging logistic issues will come to the fore that one needs to answer, such as how much and how long to retain employees and staffs, cuts in salary and regular benefits, loan repayments, and hospital maintenance charges.

Jerome et al (1) recommended that a mutually benefitting strategic cost-effective and efficient surgical protocols supported by insurance providers and governments could make a big difference to both hospitals and patients who are struggling to recuperate in this COVID-19 financial crisis.

References

1. Jerome et al. Perspectives and Consensus among International Orthopaedic Surgeons during Initial and Mid-lockdown Phases of Coronavirus Disease. *J Hand Microsurg* .DOI: 10.1055/s-0040-1713964. Accessed July, 20,2020

Conflict of Interest: None Declared