

# THE INCIDENCE OF SURGICAL CANCELLATIONS: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE RESUMPTION OF ELECTIVE ORTHOPAEDIC OPERATING AFTER THE FIRST WAVE OF COVID-19

## Introduction & Aim:

- Backlog of elective cases following the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Processes changed in response to COVID-19 including virtual pre-assessment / consenting clinics.
- Despite the backlog, it was noted that theatre utilization was below target.
- Theatre cancellations have a big impact on theatre utilization so we aimed to identify measures to reduce them.

## Methods:

- Single centre study at a specialist elective orthopaedic hospital
- Retrospective audit: June to October 2020
- Review of all cancellations for Foot & Ankle Patients

## Results:

- 36 cancellations out of 193 patients listed over the 5-month period (**19%**).
- These were grouped in to COVID and non-COVID related cancellations.
- The biggest cause for cancellation was patient-driven, due to last-minute fears regarding surgery during the pandemic (**25% of all cancellations**).
- The second biggest cause was problems relating to swabs (**17% of all cancellations**).
- These 2 causes were felt to be modifiable causes.

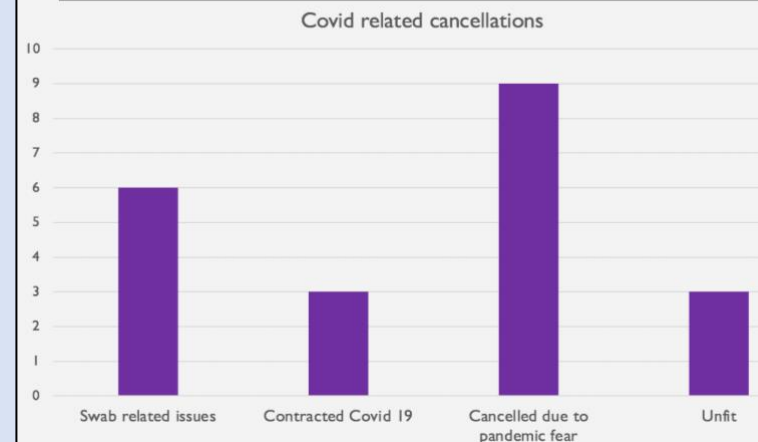
## Changes Instituted:

- Additional pre-operative counselling to include COVID-19 related specific risks.
- Patient counselling regarding importance of isolation and having pre-operative swab.
- Designated team for COVID swab management
- Early reinstatement of face-to-face pre-operative assessments to facilitate these changes

## Conclusion:

- A number of changes in the way we work were instituted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This meant a number of key processes changed and it is important to monitor the effect of these changes and institute rapid solutions to new problems this creates.
- It is also more important than ever to involve patients in their care and arm them with knowledge about risks early in their surgical treatment.
- Further re-audit is planned to determine the efficacy of these changes
- We hope our experience can be used to help other trusts identify key areas for quality improvement

## COVID RELATED REASONS (21)



## NON COVID RELATED REASONS (15)

