

Editorial

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Safe Neurosurgical Practices in Pakistan during Second-Wave of COVID-19

Neurosurgical practices have changed in the prevalent scenario of COVID-19. Resources have been consumed and many administrations have required additional resources. The pandemic has been delayed in the subcontinent as opposed to the other parts of the world. Lockdowns have hugely disrupted in all walks of life and neurosurgical practice here in Pakistan is no exception. In Pakistan, the neurosurgical units have continued to serve humanity with the adaptation of SOPs laid down by the WHO guidelines. The most prevalent being the following measures are implemented: strict use of N95 surgical mask, the generous use of disinfectants in the wards, placement of sensitizers in the corridors of the wards and counters, screening of all health care providers at earliest, and the use of heavy boots & gloves by the sanitation staff. Safe distance practices are advocated and the shoe covers are promptly used when entering surgical theatres. The theatres have been carbolicised and disinfected on scheduled basis. All patients undergo COVID-19 PCR testing before they get admitted in the wards and before the surgeries. Deferred COVID-19 patients till tests are negative. Careful surgery ensured at the time of drilling and cutting as aerosol transmission is maximum. Safety glasses used wherever possible during surgeries. COVID-19 PCR testing done for suspected patients. In a single setting of neurosurgery, only 6-7% mortality was observed in postsurgical patients. We closed those wards where COVID-19 reported in postsurgical patients. Closed wards cleaned, fumigated and re painted. Pakistan is ensuring a safe neurosurgical practices. We all need to be more careful during the second wave of COVID-19.

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