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## ***Patients' Consent and Information***

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Dear Editor

We read the recent article on " Medical ethics during a public health crisis: COVID 19" with huge interest and the author needs to be congratulated for their efforts bringing the crucial issues of medical ethics in dealing with the patients. (1)

Patient care should never be curtailed in emergency cases and essential lifesaving orthopedics surgeries which are the prime concern in medical law and ethics. The right to the highest attainable standard of health" by WHO constitution (1946) implies a clear set of legal obligations on states to ensure appropriate conditions for the enjoyment of health for all people without discrimination. (2)

Every country must focus on the patient's right to health as a supreme obligation to its fellow citizens during this COVID 19. It is also essential that during this pandemic crisis, non-emergency or orthopedics conditions that required specific and timely intervention may not be neglected or postponed.

Jerome et al (3) have reported recommendations regarding orthopedics patient care at emergency, non-emergency, and the importance of consent. They stressed the Indian constitutional right article 21. "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law". (4)

All their patients received information about COVID-19, hand hygiene, and safe hygienic practices before surgery. 87 % of surgeons in their study obtained prior informed for procedures during COVID 19 early and mid-lockdown phase. 49% of surgeons had special consent in the bilingual version (English + native language) briefing the risk of contamination and spread to them during the stay. We need to emphasize that the risk of transmission of COVID 19 from hospital asymptomatic carriers. (5) This has to be conveyed with a separate/special informed consent comprehensible to patients' understanding. For patients with severe hypoxia, anxiety, confusion, or restlessness, these informed consents can be obtained from the

kith or relatives.

As a mandatory practice, patients should wear a surgical mask and protective kits during the stay in the hospital. All elective patients in Jerome et al study (3) received adequate counseling before surgery by 66% Orthopedics surgeons involved in the survey. The chances for postponement and counseling for nonemergency case delaying was also rendered.

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## References

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Conflict of Interest: None Declared