

Colorectal Cancer Surgery - Difficulties and Management in the COVID Era †

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Abstract: Colorectal cancer is the most common malignant surgical pathology of the digestive tract that arouses great interest. The SARS-COV2 pandemic has caused many difficulties in managing patients with colorectal cancer, which require a relatively quick solution so that patients with this pathology are not deprived of quality medical services. This study aimed to identify the differences encountered during the SARS-COV2 pandemic compared to the previous period in terms of the difficulty of cases and their management, thus being able to subsequently bring changes in the essential points of treatment of these cases. The case study of the Surgery Clinic of the Emergency Clinical Hospital ‘Saint John, Bucharest’ were analyzed comparatively between February 2019 - January 2020 and February 2020 - January 2021 (SARS-COV2 pandemic period). The study included 423 patients, 119 during the COVID pandemic and 304 between February 2019 and January 2020. Descriptive statistics show a similar breakdown by sex, area of origin, and the number of days of hospitalization. The decade of age with the maximum incidence is higher in 2019-2020. The differences were in the case of the number of surgeries resulting in colostomy, respectively the percentage of cases in advanced stages that occurred during COVID. The percentage of cases presented in the emergency was also higher during the COVID period. During this period, the number of cases was partially correlated with the incidence of positive COVID cases. The SARS-COV2 pandemic has brought many difficulties in managing colorectal cancer patients, but the most important element is that patients presented in much more advanced stages during this period, in the emergency room, so that the therapeutic options were limited.

Keywords: colorectal cancer; hemicolectomy; COVID.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.