

# AB123. SOH21AS095. COVID-19 and its impact on ENT emergency services: a single institution experience

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**Background:** This study aims to evaluate the safety of executing various emergency ENT procedures in a single institution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Methods:** All patients (from December, 2019 up to April, 2020) that underwent an emergency ENT procedure in the ENT Emergency Department of the South Infirmar-y-Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH), Cork were retrospectively appraised. We developed a questionnaire and made telephonic contact with our patient cohort. Each patient was probed in relation to signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Two time periods were defined; Period 1 from 1st December, 2019 till 28th February, 2020 and Period 2 from 29th February, 2020 till 23rd April, 2020.

**Results:** A total of 332 patients were included in our study. 80.1% (226 patients) attended in Period 1 and 19.9% (66 patients) attended in Period 2. In Period 1, 4.5% (12 patients) reported COVID-19 symptoms within two weeks of attending and 7.6% (5 patients) reported symptoms in Period 2. Two of these patients were swabbed for COVID-19 and both swabs were negative. No member of the clinical team developed COVID-19 during the study.

**Conclusions:** In order to minimise the danger of aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) during the performance of emergency ENT procedures, rigorous measures were adhered to in the form of appropriate PPE and social distancing as per HSE and local Hospital guidelines.

**Keywords:** COVID-19; ENT; emergency procedures; aerosol generating procedure (AGP)

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## Footnote

*Conflicts of Interest:* The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

*Ethical Statement:* The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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