



## AB035. SOH22ABS080. Comparison of major lower limb amputation rates and outcomes pre and post coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and association to delayed access to outpatient care

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**Background:** Several short-term single centre studies have shown an initial rise in major amputation rates following coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) driven interruptions to services, however there is a lack of long-term data showing the impact of multiple lockdowns and restriction levels.

**Methods:** In this retrospective cohort study major lower limb amputation (MLLA) numbers in University Hospital Limerick were compared between the 16-month period before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic (01/08/2019–29/2/2020) and the 16-month period after the onset of COVID-19 (01/04/2020–31/10/2021). Outcomes following amputations were compared between groups including progression to rehab, fitting of prosthesis, and 90-day mortality following amputation.

**Results:** In total 91 patients were included in this study. Forty-three MLLA were completed in the pre-COVID-19 period, compared to 51 MLLA in the post-COVID-19 group, an increase of 18.6%. In the pre-COVID cohort 48.8% of patients requiring a through knee amputation or higher, compared with 58.8% of patients in the post-COVID-19 cohort. There was no significant difference between age (66.5 *vs.* 67.4) or gender (males 67.4% *vs.* 68.6%). The 90-day mortality rate was lower in the post

COVID-19 cohort (16.2% *vs.* 7.8%). Approximately thirty-three percent in the post-COVID cohort have been fitted for prosthetics compared with 41.8% pre-COVID. In the post-COVID-19 cohort. Approximately thirty-one percent had delayed/virtualisation of outpatient appointments prior to their amputation.

**Conclusions:** There is an increase in the number of MLLA post-COVID-19 which is associated with a higher level of amputation, and a reduction in patient progression to prosthesis fitting.

**Keywords:** Amputation; coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); lower limb; outpatients; prosthesis

### Acknowledgments

*Funding:* None.

### 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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doi: 10.21037/map-22-ab035

**Cite this abstract as:** Doyle S, Khalil M, Keehan G, Fowler A, McKeivitt K, Dooley C, Medani M, Abdeldaim Y, Moloney T, Kavanagh E. AB035. SOH22ABS080. Comparison of major lower limb amputation rates and outcomes pre and post coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and association to delayed access to outpatient care. *Mesentery Peritoneum* 2022;6:AB035.