

NIHR Global Research Unit on Global Surgery  
Office 15, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Institute of Translational Medicine  
Heritage Building, Mindelsohn Way  
Birmingham  
B15 2TH

14th July 2020  
[a.a.bhangu@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.a.bhangu@bham.ac.uk)

**RE: GlobalSurg | CovidSurg – Week study**

Dear colleague,

We are writing to you on behalf of the GlobalSurg and CovidSurg collaboratives, two international surgical research networks joining efforts to deliver GlobalSurg | CovidSurg – Week.

CovidSurg Cohort study has demonstrated the adverse outcomes of surgery in SARS-CoV-2 infected patients, achieving a publication in The Lancet. Early signals from CovidSurg-Cancer show that surgery following SARS-CoV-2 infection is associated with poor outcomes, even if surgery is several weeks after initial diagnosis. However, more granular data are needed to explore this.

GlobalSurg | CovidSurg Week is an international multi-centre cohort study that aims:

- (1) To determine the optimal timing of surgery following SARS-CoV-2 infection;
- (2) Determine assess key global surgical indicators, such as postoperative mortality.

In order to achieve the above aims, this study will include all patients undergoing surgery with a preoperative, postoperative or no SARS-CoV-2 infection. All hospitals are eligible to participate, regardless having admitted SARS-CoV-2 infected patients or not.

**We would be delighted to have your team on board.** We foresee this GlobalSurg & CovidSurg collaboration to be an expansion of the original collaboratives, that have proven to efficiently engage over 1000 hospitals and collect data from more than 35000 patients. **Data collection is planned to happen for 1 week only during October 2020.** **We encourage you to seek your own local approvals and build local teams, involving as many specialties in your hospital as possible.**

All the collaborators participating in GlobalSurg | CovidSurg – Week will be recognised with PubMed-indexed collaborative co-authorship on any resulting papers (example: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31182-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31182-X/fulltext)).

Please address us any queries through [covidsurg@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:covidsurg@contacts.bham.ac.uk).



Yours sincerely,



**Mr Aneel Bhangu MBChB PhD FRCS**  
NIHR Clinician Scientist in Global Surgery  
Senior Lecturer in Global Surgery  
University of Birmingham, UK

Honorary Consultant Colorectal Surgeon  
University Hospitals Birmingham, UK

