

Elderly Hip Fracture During the COVID Pandemic: What We Are Learning

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Purpose: In December 2019, when the first cases of COVID-19 appeared, we were not able to predict the spreading capacity or infectious aggressiveness of this virus. European health services have been blocked to control this pandemic state. Orthopaedic departments have reduced their activities just for treating emergent and urgent pathologies such as hip fracture. The goal of this study is to describe and analyze hip fracture COVID-positive patient outcomes and compare them with those observed in COVID-negative patients.

Methods: This is an observational, retrospective, descriptive study. We have registered clinical and demographic data from 43 patients who were admitted to the emergency department of Hospital Universitario Gregorio Marañón with a hip fracture, from March 14 until April 22, 2020. The minimum follow-up was 19 days.

Results: We registered 43 patients, 10 men and 33 women. 9 were COVID-19-positive. Seven patients died in the first month (5 of them were COVID-19-positive), achieving a mortality rate of 62.5% in COVID-19-positive patients and 9% in noninfected patients. Half of the COVID-19-positive patients showed pneumonic signs on the chest radiograph.

Conclusion: COVID-19 is a single risk factor for death after surgery.