

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic sweeps across the world, it causes widespread concern, fear, and stress to the patient who needs elective surgery. COVID-19 is spreading like an uncontrolled fire. Laparoscopic Surgeons are at the highest risk of contacting this virus. There is a particular need for protection in the operation theaters and proper management of gas due to pneumoperitoneum leaking with smoke viral DNA and carcinogens present in surgical smoke. The need to safeguard themselves and their patients has prompted the laparoscopic surgeons to develop their protocols to tide over the pandemic situation. Although there has been a shift of available resources from elective surgeries to the management of COVID-19 cases, specific surgical emergencies need immediate management. Amidst the corona crisis, surgeons have to take care of the issues and safeguards associated with laparoscopic surgery.



Higher concentrations of particulate matter laparoscopic surgery produces more particulate matter than open surgery, increasing the risk of viral transmission. The high particulate matter is mostly attributed to:

- Electrosurgical devices employed
- Low-gas motility of pneumoperitoneum
- Gas expulsion through ports or trocars

When used during laparoscopic procedures, it will effectively and efficiently remove smoke from the peritoneal cavity. So, the surgeon can have enhanced visualization of the surgical site safety from COVID-19 and improved air quality. Therefore, the whole surgical team should wear personal protection equipment, including:

- Use of laparoscopic smoke evacuation system
- Disposable surgical caps
- Medical protective mask (N95)
- Surgical shield uniform
- Disposable medical protective uniform
- Disposable latex gloves
- Full-face respiratory protective devices
- Powered air-purifying respirator

Laparoscopic surgery during a pandemic comes with multiple threats for the surgical team. Therefore, it is crucial to take measures for the safeguard of colleagues, family, and friends. Although these measures are definitely going to increase the cost of surgery but for the wellbeing of health professionals this is necessary.

I request all of you to please **stay safe** and **protect** yourself, your family, and your patient.

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