



Informed Consent for Surgery During COVID-19: Some Important Issues

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Dear Editor,

I would like to share ideas on the article “Informed Consent for Surgery During COVID-19” [1]. Bhattacharya and Bhattacharya noted that “A normal patient may develop or contract corona virus infection in the peri- or post-operative period which should be again documented in the consent form” [1]. Bhattacharya and Bhattacharya rightly put his point that a patient can contact corona virus infection in the peri- or post-operative period which should be documented in the consent form [1]. During COVID-19 outbreak after a lull, there is a change in workflow of surgery departments and services in both common and difficult surgical operations are getting started. We have carefully read articles on COVID 19 by Bhattacharya and Bhattacharya rightly published in Indian Journal of Surgery [1]. The issues on informed consent is an important issue in surgery and it is still necessary that surgeon has to strictly follow the informed consent principle [1, 2]. The risk of the patient from operation and emerging infection are important data that the patients have to recognize. Nevertheless, the little mentioned data for the patient is on the course of operation. It still lacks complete data on the outcome from surgery during COVID-19, and if the patient has COVID-19, there is no specific data on clinical course. It is necessary that the surgeon has to inform the fact on lack of clinical data on these issues for the patient undergoing operation. Surely, the issues on informed consent are important as detailed in the article, but this disease is enigmatic and its pathophysiological processes continue to surprise the medical community. The proposed consent form should have added sentences to this effect. During the present COVID-19 outbreak, a good informed consent has to cover the data on “what

is already known” and “what is presently not known.” It is necessary that the patient and family should get this important information before giving any informed consents. According to the mentioned facts, in COVID 19 period, we should add “COVID 19 or coronavirus infection has many unknown manifestations and it is known to affect the human beings in several surprising ways. Its exact time of incubation and infection potential is variable. COVID 19 manifestations of unknown nature may occur during and after surgical operation for which the patient and family should be prepared” into the consent form.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest The author declares that he has no conflict of interest.

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