

Pediatric Surgery in the Time of COVID-19

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AS I WRITE this, the SARS-CoV2 virus has spread around the globe, and cases of COVID-19 continue to rise. The world in which we live has dramatically changed, and this in turn has changed us. In their Perspective,¹ Drs. Polites and Azarow highlight some of the challenges of managing appendicitis in the midst of the pandemic. As pediatric surgeons, we are on the front lines, managing surgical disease of infants, children, and young adults. At this point, many of us have suspended our elective schedules in order to preserve personal protective equipment, masks, and other supplies, and to keep our hospital beds available for the inevitable surge of patients. Others stand ready to lend a hand to our adult surgical and critical care colleagues. Still others are fighting the pandemic in desperate circumstances. At the same time, we must continue to care for the newborns with congenital anomalies, the children with cancer, the victims of trauma, malrotation, testicular torsion, appendicitis, and all the other surgical emergencies experienced by our patients. These are unprecedented times that will likely have a profound impact on how we practice pediatric surgery. I am certain the readers of this journal, who are some of the most innovative in the field, will lead the way. I wish you all the best as we tackle this menace.

Be well.

Reference

1. Polites SF, Azarow KS. Perspectives on pediatric appendicitis and appendectomy during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. *J Laparoendosc Adv Surg Tech A* 2020;30:356–357.

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