

Mortality Associated with Delayed Vascular Surgery During the COVID-19 Pandemic Disproportionately Affects Female Patients

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Purpose:

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a rapid and widespread postponement of scheduled vascular surgical operations. The objective of this study was to determine the impact of surgery postponement.

Methods:

A REDCap database recorded outcomes of patients whose scheduled vascular surgeries were delayed during the pandemic. An interim data analysis of patients from 14 countries who died before their postponed surgeries was performed.

Results:

The 1050 patients in the analysis had the following conditions: 200 (19.0%) aortic, 84 (8.0%) carotid, 262 (25.0%) peripheral artery disease (PAD), 267 (25.4%) end-stage renal disease (ESRD), and 237 (22.6%) venous. Of the 1050 patients, 587 (56.0%) were male and 461 (44.0%) were female. Twenty-nine patients (2.8%) died while awaiting surgery. Thirteen (44.8%) of these patients were male and 16 (55.2%) were female. The median length of surgical delay to the time of death was 62.5 days [IQR, 29.0-128.0 days]. The mortality rates by condition were 6.0% aortic, 7.1% carotid, 1.9% PAD, 2.2% ESRD, and 0.0% venous.

Conclusions:

More than one out of 50 patients with vascular disease whose surgeries were postponed in this cohort died while waiting for surgery. Patients who died were disproportionately female. Further investigation is needed.