



RETURN OF SURGERY

A/Prof Heather Mack

27 April 2020

Hello again, RANZCO Colleagues. I hope this video finds you in good health and good spirits.

The Australian and New Zealand governments have both announced the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. This will allow for the recommencement of elective surgery.

The planned return to elective surgery must be carried out with great care. We must recognise there is an ongoing risk of spreading COVID-19 in the community. Please understand, this is not a return to 'business as usual'. Lists and patient through-put will inevitably be limited by the necessity to maintain social distancing and continued adherence to infection control precautions.

Acknowledging that health departments, local health districts, hospitals and DHBs will all have more specific guidance based on available resources, patient needs, and the measures that need to be in place to ensure our patients and staff remain safe with the increased activity, RANZCO has developed a management process to guide surgery during COVID-19. The RANZCO New Zealand Branch, working with the Ministry of Health and others, has adapted the RANZCO triage guidelines to suit level 3 lockdown in New Zealand. I want to thank Peter Hadden for his leadership in this regard. The guidelines can be accessed on our website.

As you are all aware PPE remains in limited supply in both countries. While there is a return to some elective surgery, both governments have made it clear, that hospitals and day surgeries will need to source their own PPE, it will not come from government supplies. Unfortunately, RANZCO cannot help you with this. The situation is very fluid with constant updates

We ask that you please continue to check the COVID-19 section of our website for information. As always, please continue to follow government and health jurisdiction advice.

If you need further assistance from our College staff, please contact them by email at the address ranzco@ranzco.edu on the screen.

We wish you a pleasant and safe week.

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