

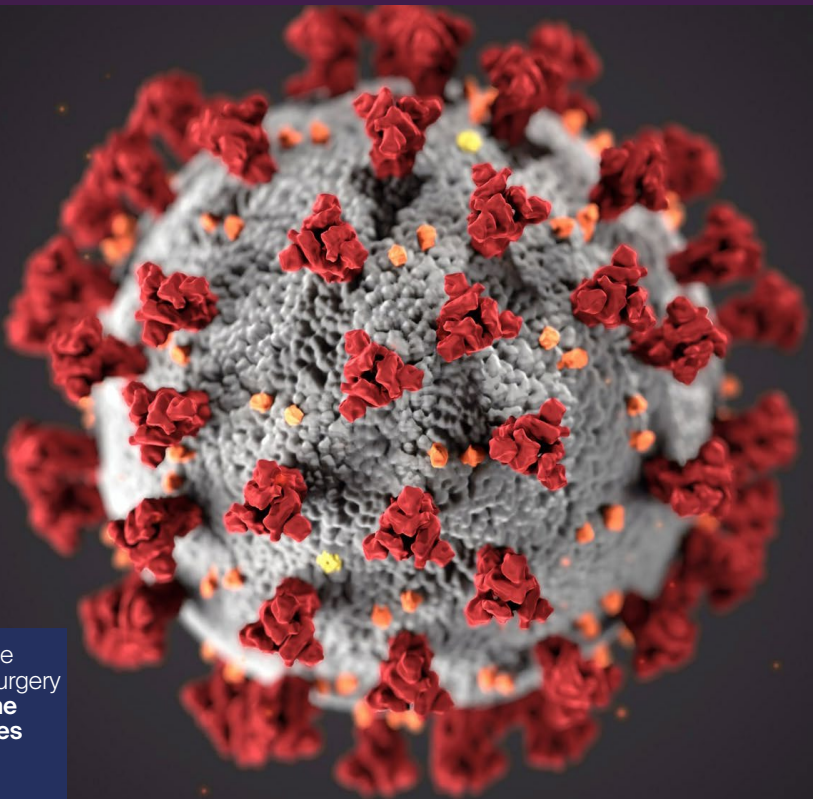
# The impact of COVID-19 on AO CMF surgeons: **preliminary results of our global survey**

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April 20,  
2020

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Davos,  
Switzerland



Excellence  
in facial surgery  
**across the  
specialties**

## Mission

The AO's mission is promoting excellence in patient care and outcomes in trauma and musculoskeletal disorders.

## Purpose statement

Our goal is to promote excellence in facial surgery across the specialties through teaching and learning, combined with research and development.

## The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the lives of many worldwide.

Recently, AO CMF initiated the **AO CMF International Task Force Recommendations on Best Practices for Maxillofacial Procedures during COVID-19 Pandemic**.

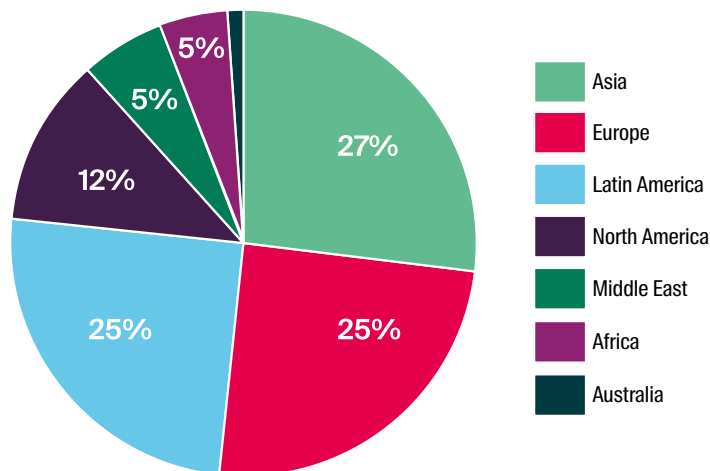
The first set of guidelines for best practices have been defined and made available through a number of channels, including our website. These guidelines will be updated as more knowledge will appear on the disease and how to safely and appropriately manage our patients in these times.

Furthermore, the **Task Force** initiated a survey to capture the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on surgeons working in the CMF-field. The survey was circulated to the AO CMF members and within a few days, we have reached a very impressive response rate of more than 500. We gratefully thank our members for their prompt and dedicated responses. In this report, we communicate the main findings.

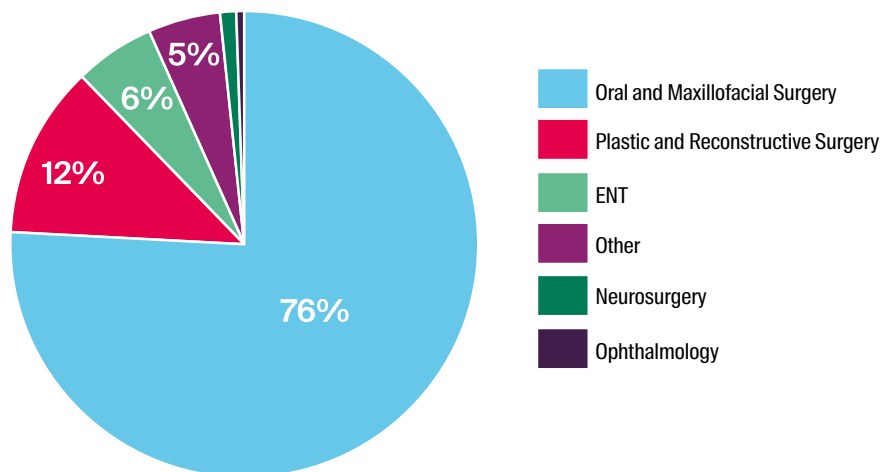
## Characteristics of the survey respondents:

- 511 respondents, female/male: 29% / 71%
- 345 respondents (68%) were between 25 and 44 years old.

## Responses from:



## Speciality:



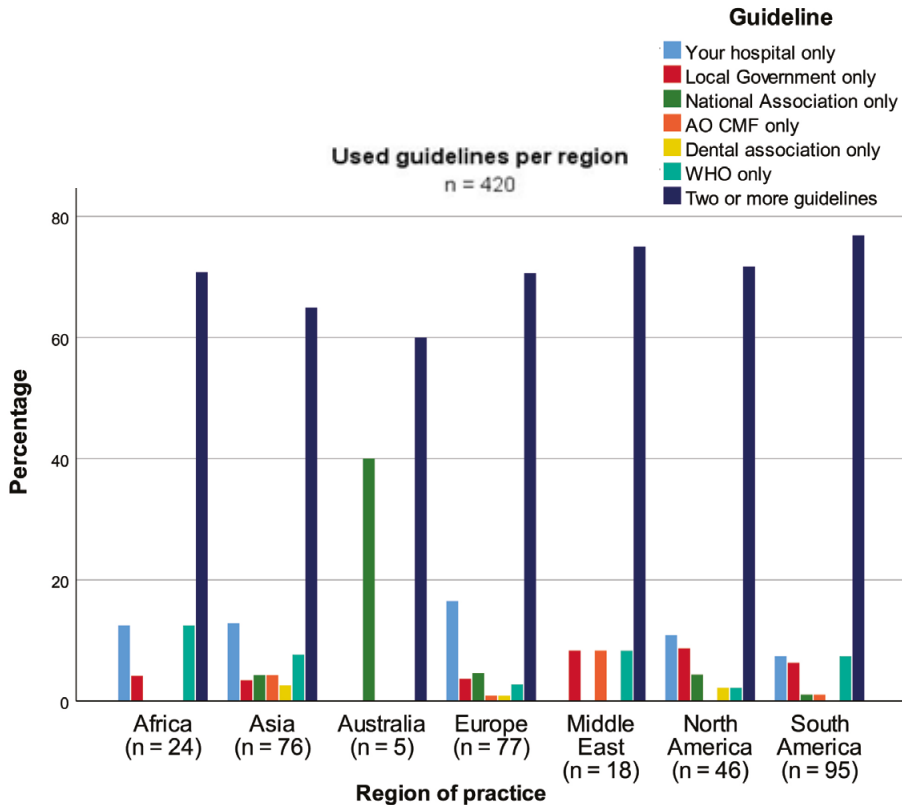
# Main conclusions

## 1. Which guidelines are followed?

420 respondents answered the question:

**“Do you currently follow guidelines to manage patients under such a public health crisis?”**

- In all regions, most surgeons are using more than one set of guidelines on how to manage patients under the COVID-19 pandemic;
- In Asia, Europe, North and South America: surgeons mostly adhere to the guidelines of their hospitals;
- In Australia: surgeons adhere to guidelines of their national association.



**Figure 1:**

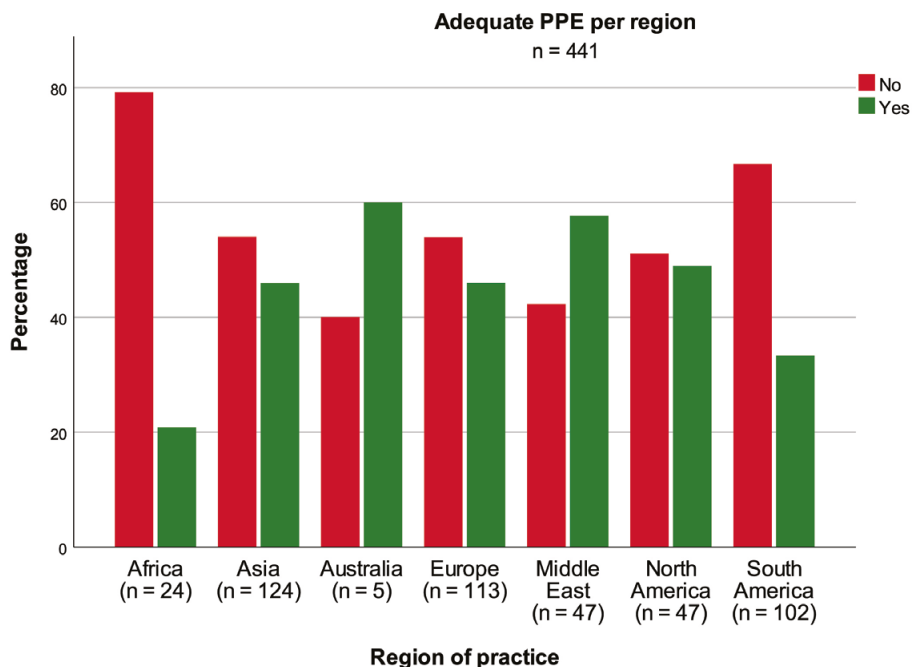
In all regions, surgeons are using more than one guideline for adequate management of COVID-19 patients.

## 2. Do hospitals provide adequate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to frontline healthcare workers?

441 respondents answered the question:

**“Do you feel that your hospital provides adequate personal protective equipment for front-line workers?”**

- the vast majority of CMF surgeons feel the hospitals do not provide adequate PPE to the frontline workers, though we see regional differences;
- in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America: the majority indicate the hospitals do not provide their frontline workers adequate PPE;
- Australia and the Middle East report their workers do receive adequate PPE.



**Figure 2:**

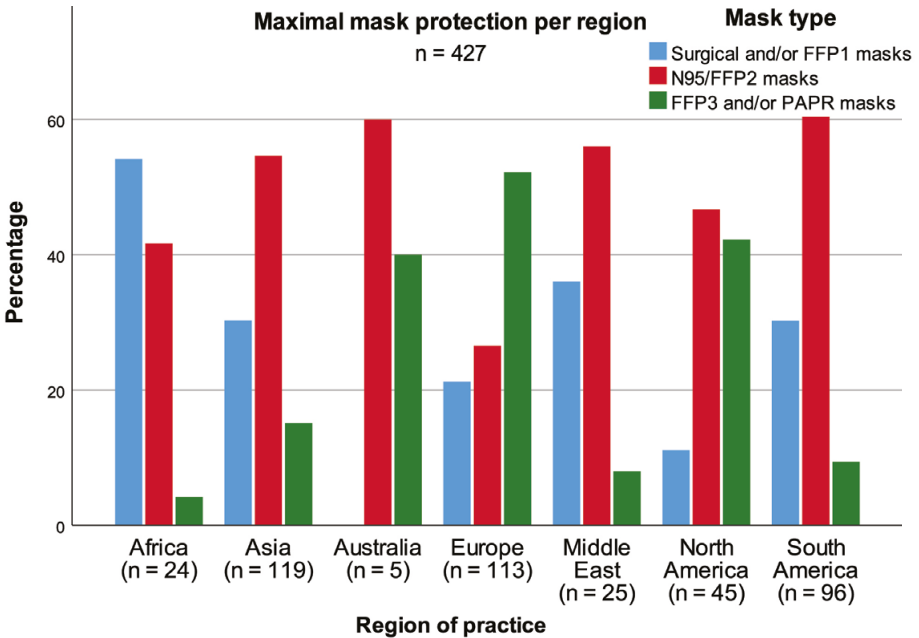
The vast majority of CMF surgeons feels the hospitals do not provide adequate PPE to the frontline workers, but there are regional differences.

### 3. What PPE does the hospital/medical center provide?

427 respondents answered the question:

**“What forms of personal protective equipment does your hospital/medical center provide?”**

- the availability of PPE considerably varies per region;
- the best protection offered to the surgeons is in Australia (though from this region only 5 responses were received), followed by North America where N95/FFP2 and powered-air purifying respirator (PAPR) masks are provided;
- on the other side of the spectrum of PPE availability, we see that in Africa the majority of the surgeons can only use surgical/Filtering Facepiece Particle 1 (FFP1) masks as the maximum protection for the treatment of COVID-19 positive patients.



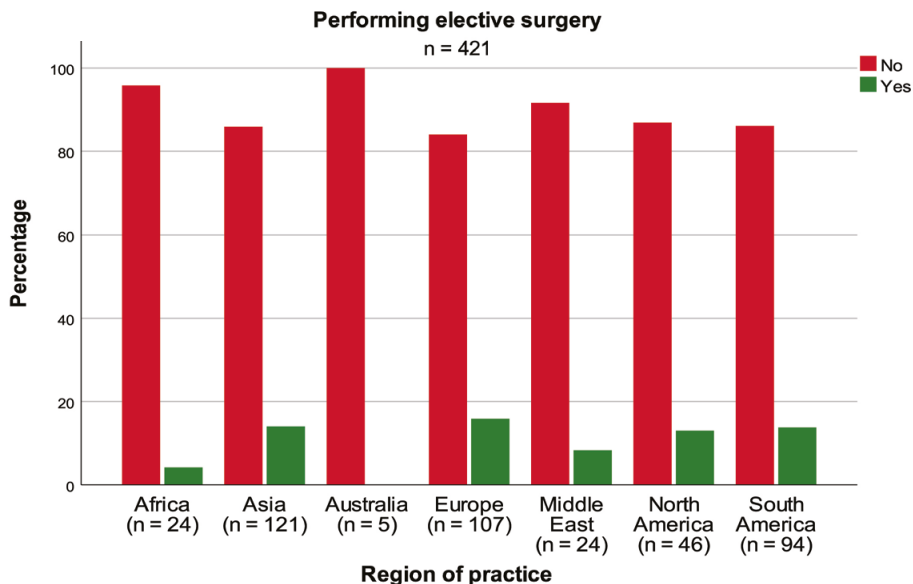
**Figure 3:**

The availability of PPE considerably varies per region, with the best PPE in Australia (though only 5 respondents) followed by North America; in Africa the majority of the surgeons can only use surgical/FFP1 masks as maximum protection.

## 4. Are surgeons still doing elective surgery?

421 respondents answered the question:

“Are you still performing elective CMF surgery cases?”



**Figure 4:**

The vast majority of the CMF surgeons stopped elective surgery

### Main conclusion:

The vast majority of the CMF surgeons stopped elective surgery.

The responses to this survey underline that the impact of COVID-19 on the life and work of CMF surgeons is massive and devastating.

An investigation with a more comprehensive approach and a more detailed analysis of the survey is being conducted, and its results will be submitted for publication.

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