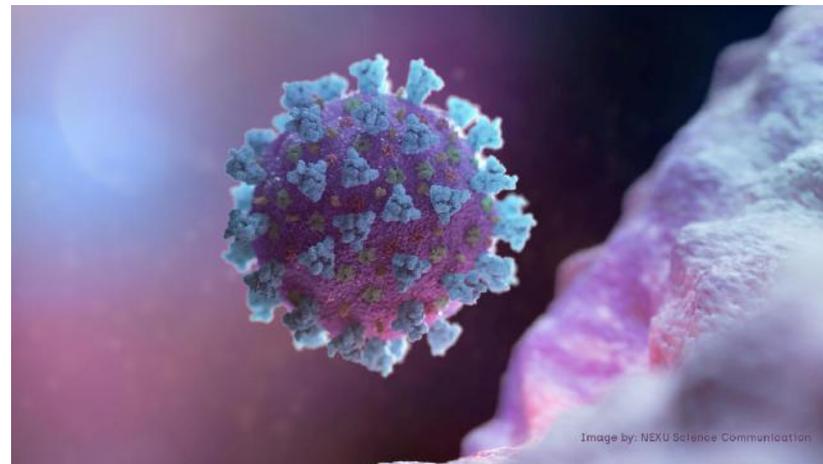




# Thoracic Surgery at the Time of COVID-19: a 27 Q&A Snapshot

On behalf of the ESTS Steering Learning Affairs Committee

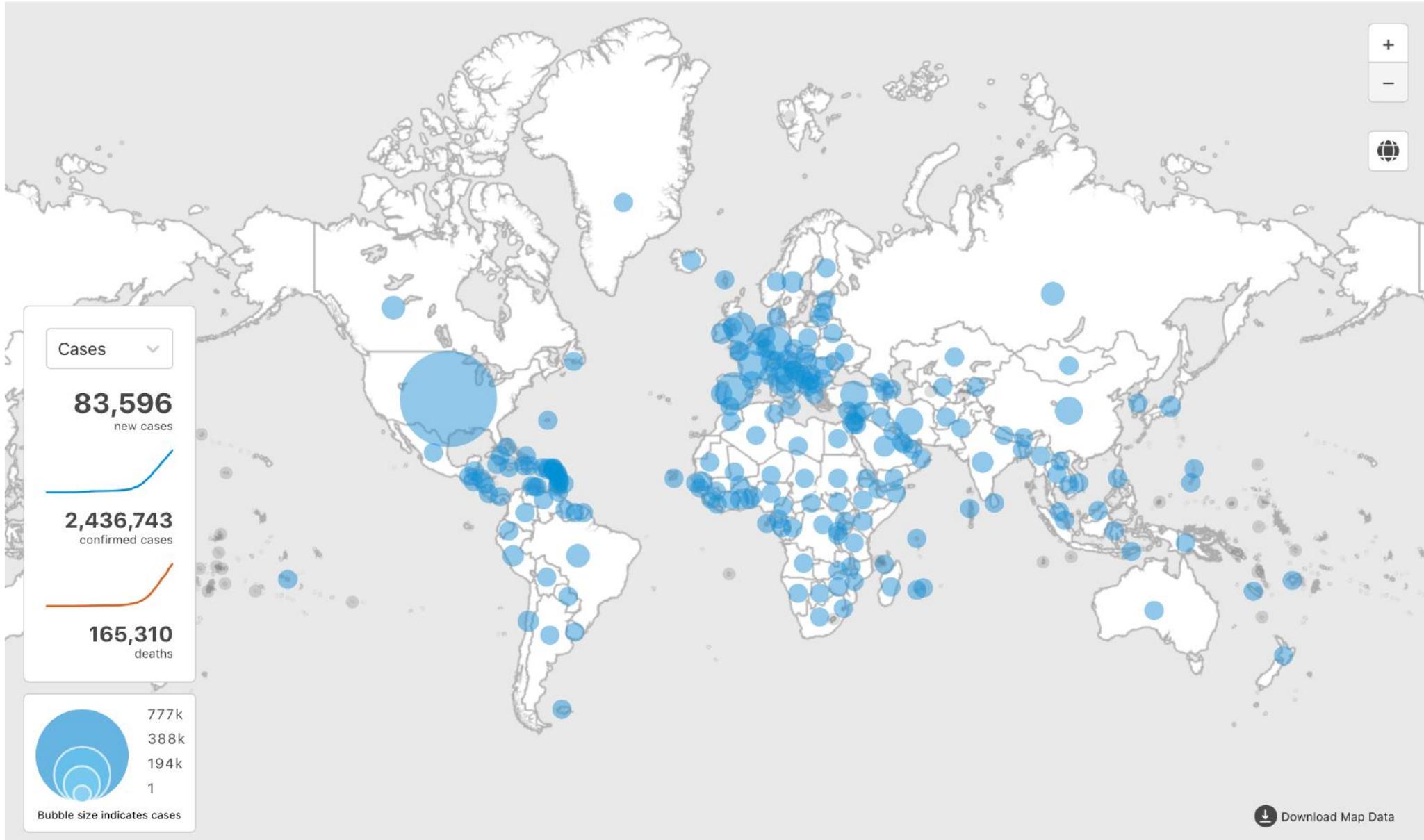


# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Last updated: 2020/4/22, 11:00am CEST

[Overview](#)

[Explorer](#)



# 409

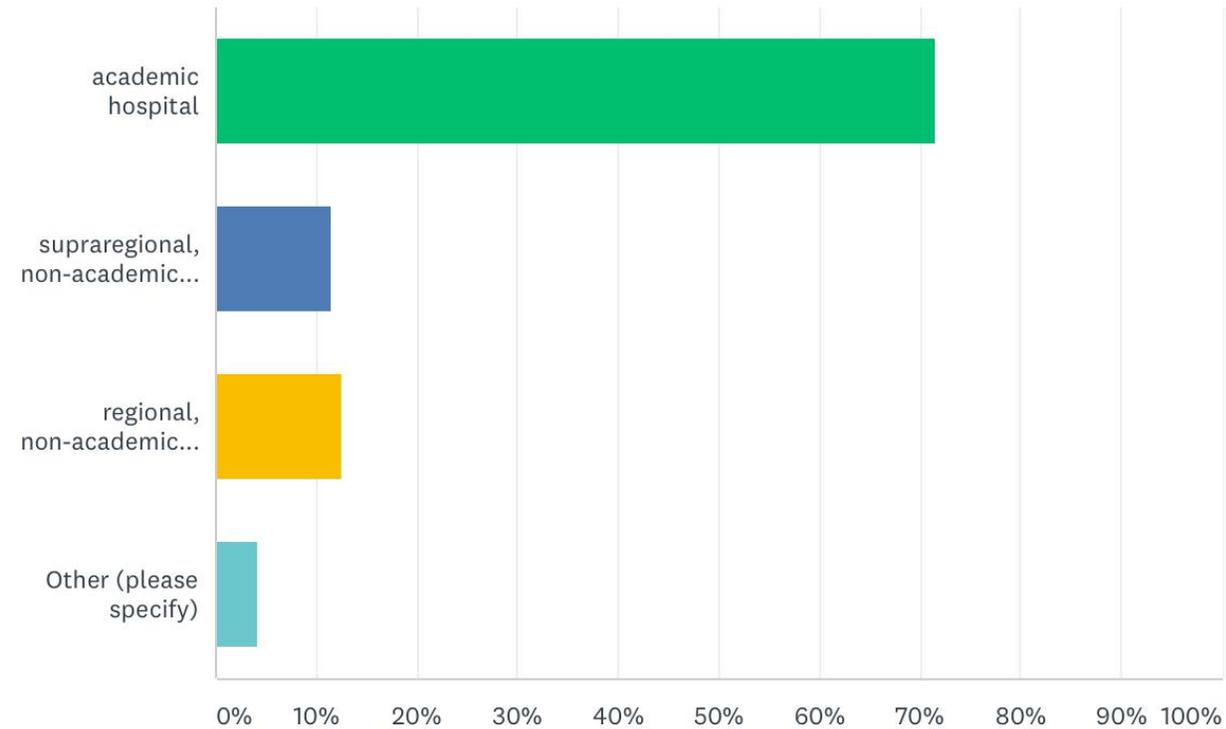
- Total Responses
- Date Created: Sunday, April 12, 2020
- Complete Responses: 373



Q2

# In which type of institution do you practice?

Answered: 405 Skipped: 4

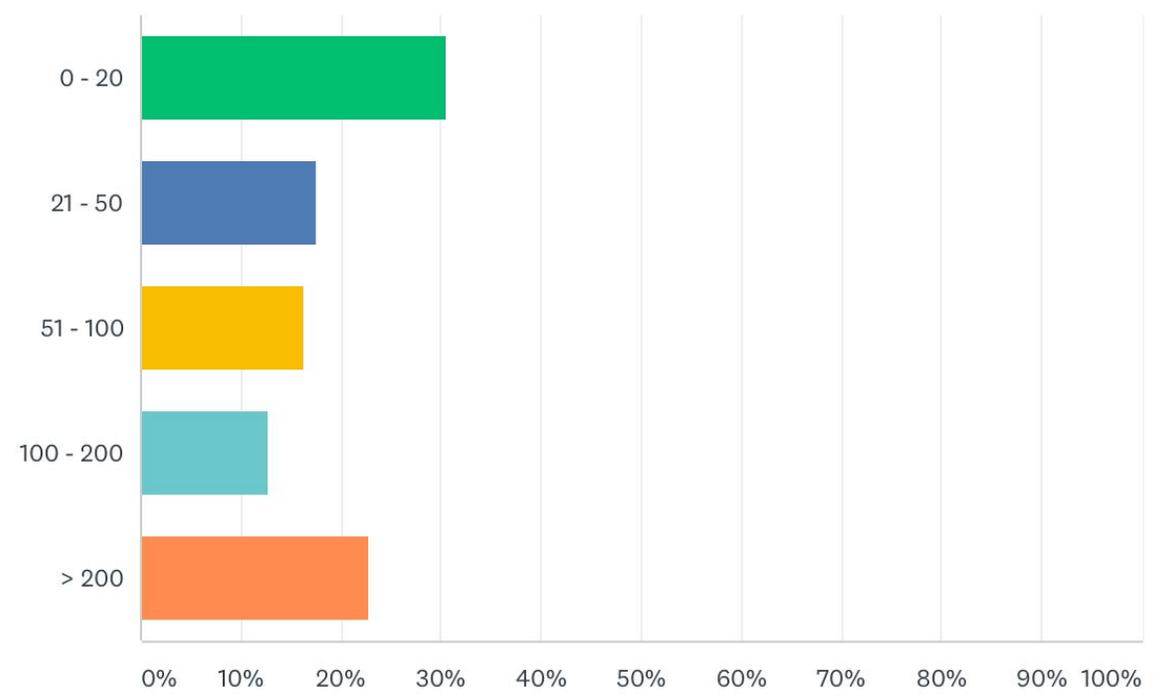


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ academic hospital	71.60%	290
▼ supraregional, non-academic hospital	11.60%	47
▼ regional, non-academic hospital	12.59%	51
▼ Other (please specify)	<a href="#">Responses</a> 4.20%	17
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>405</b>



# How many COVID-19 positive patients is your hospital treating?

Answered: 405 Skipped: 4

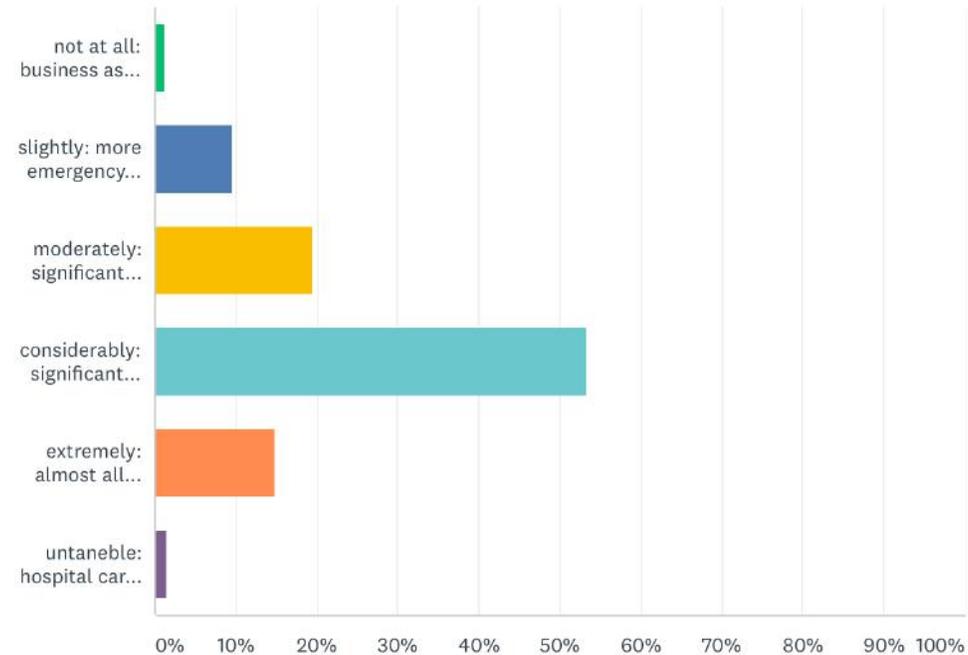


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ 0 - 20	30.62%	124
▼ 21 - 50	17.53%	71
▼ 51 - 100	16.30%	66
▼ 100 - 200	12.84%	52
▼ > 200	22.72%	92
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>405</b>



# How is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the normal functioning of your hospital (NOT YOUR DEPARTMENT)?

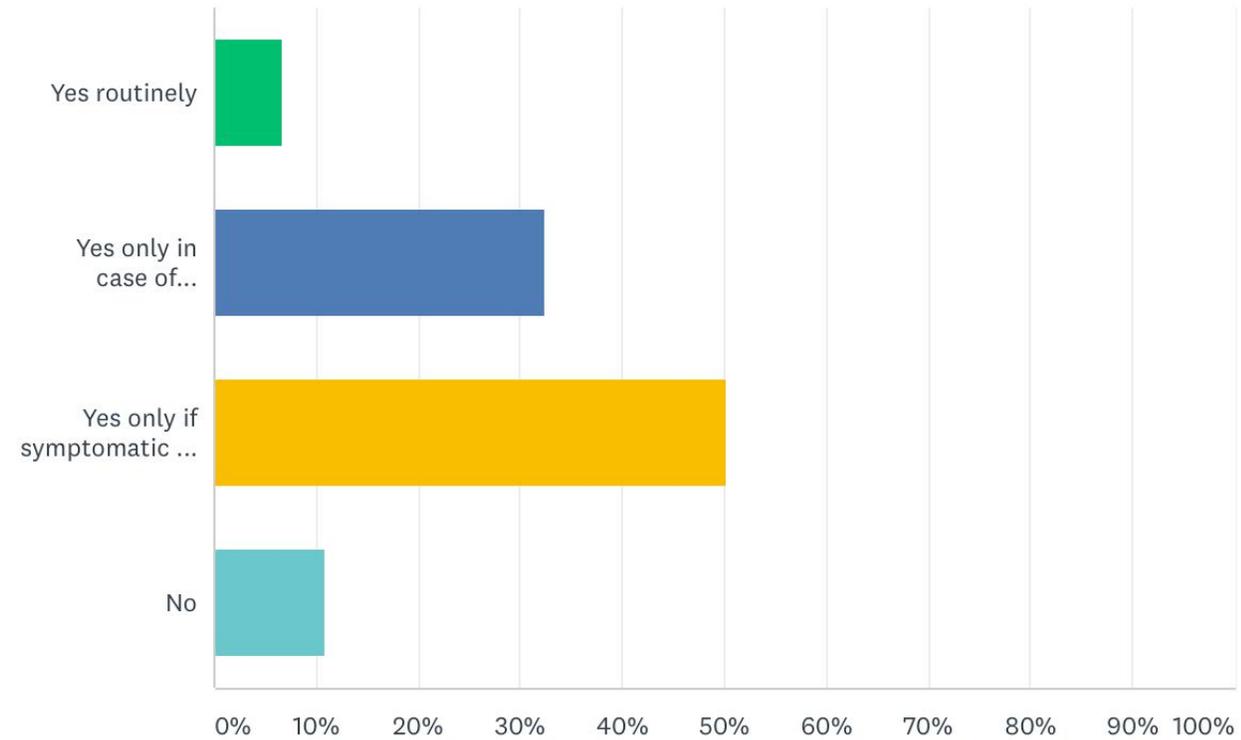
Answered: 405 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
not at all: business as usual	1.23% 5
slightly: more emergency department activity, some elective minor surgeries have been postponed, but no effect on inpatient care or ICU beds	9.63% 39
moderately: significant emergency department activity, more surgeries postponed, less ICU beds available for non-COVID-19 patients	19.51% 79
considerably: significant emergency department activity, only medically or oncologically urgent surgeries are executed, minority of ICU beds available for non-COVID-19 patients	53.33% 216
extremely: almost all hospital care is provided to COVID-19 patients, only emergency surgeries are executed, All ICU beds taken by COVID-19 patients	14.81% 60
untaneble: hospital care is insufficient for this pandemic: shortness of beds, staff, supplies and ICU resources	1.48% 6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>405</b>

## Are the Health care personnel tested in your Hospital?

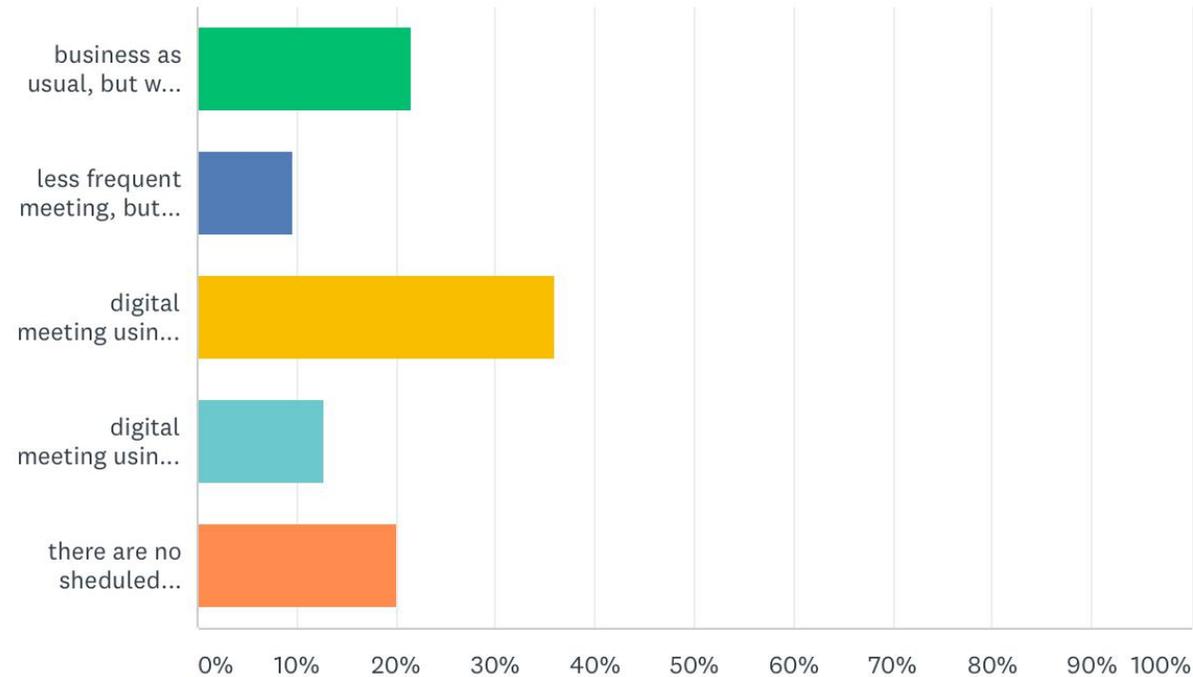
Answered: 405 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes routinely	6.67% 27
▼ Yes only in case of exposure to positive patients	32.35% 131
▼ Yes only if symptomatic and home isolated	50.12% 203
▼ No	10.86% 44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>405</b>

# How are multidisciplinary (tumor) meetings organized today?

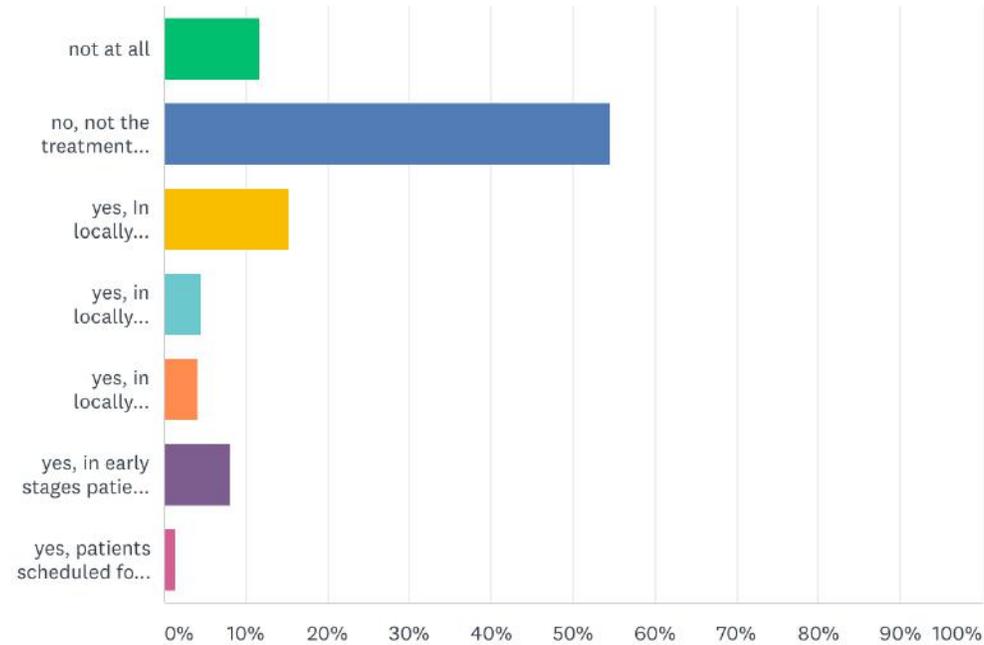
Answered: 405 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ business as usual, but with hygienic measures (eg social distancing)	21.48%	87
▼ less frequent meeting, but still in direct contact, with hygienic measures	9.63%	39
▼ digital meeting using an e-platform, but with the same frequency	36.05%	146
▼ digital meeting using an e-platform, but less frequent	12.84%	52
▼ there are no sheduled meetings anymore (discussion at hoc)	20.00%	81
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>405</b>

# Are multidisciplinary decisions influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic situation?

Answered: 400 Skipped: 9

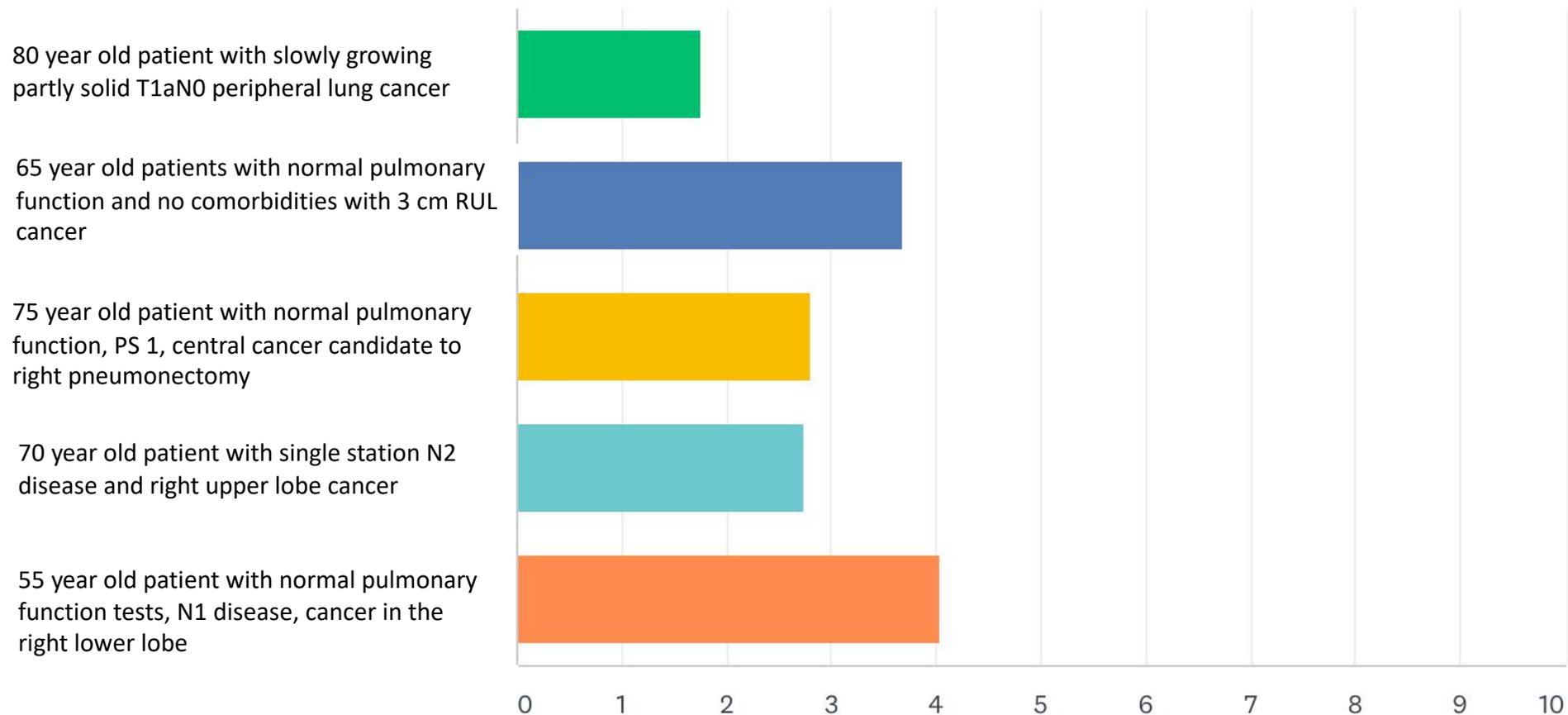


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
not at all	11.75% 47
no, not the treatment decision itself, but a degree of treatment urgency is mentioned	54.50% 218
yes, in locally advanced stages (IIIa) patients are more scheduled for systemic therapy	15.25% 61
yes, in locally advanced stages patients are less scheduled for systemic therapy and more for radiotherapy therapy	4.50% 18
yes, in locally advanced stages patients are less scheduled for systemic therapy and more for surgery	4.25% 17
yes, in early stages patients scheduled for locoregional therapy get more radiation therapy and less surgery	8.25% 33
yes, patients scheduled for locoregional therapy get less radiation therapy and more surgery	1.50% 6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400</b>

Q8

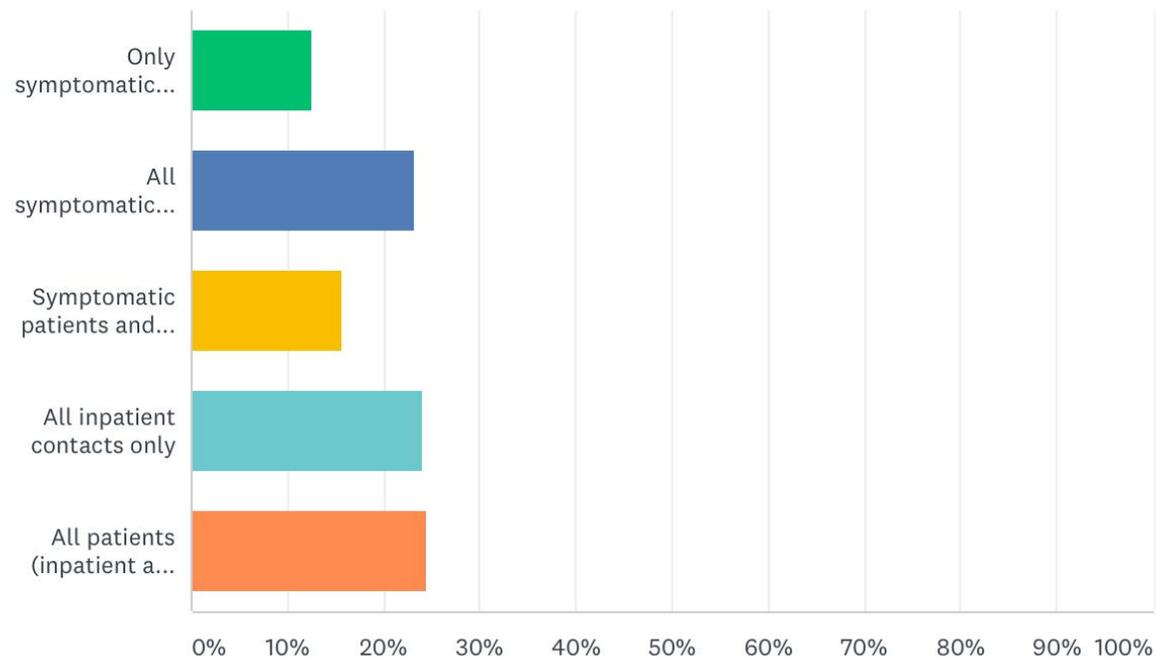
Given the current COVID-19 crisis please select which of the following hypothetical patients you would definitely prioritize for surgery (order from highest priority to lowest)?

Answered: 401 Skipped: 8



# What thoracic surgical patients are being screened for COVID-19 in your department?

Answered: 400 Skipped: 9

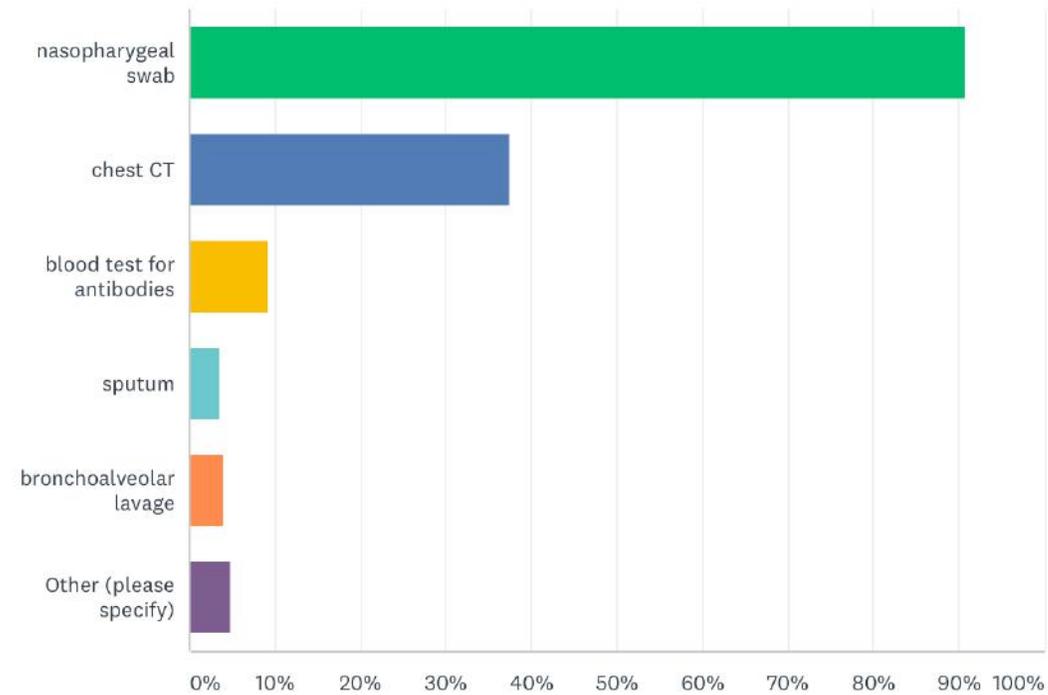


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Only symptomatic patients in the emergency department	12.50% 50
▼ All symptomatic patients (inpatient and outpatient)	23.25% 93
▼ Symptomatic patients and certain inpatient contacts depending on underlying pathology	15.75% 63
▼ All inpatient contacts only	24.00% 96
▼ All patients (inpatient and outpatient)	24.50% 98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400</b>

Q10

# How are thoracic surgical patients screened for COVID-19 in your department?

Answered: 401 Skipped: 8



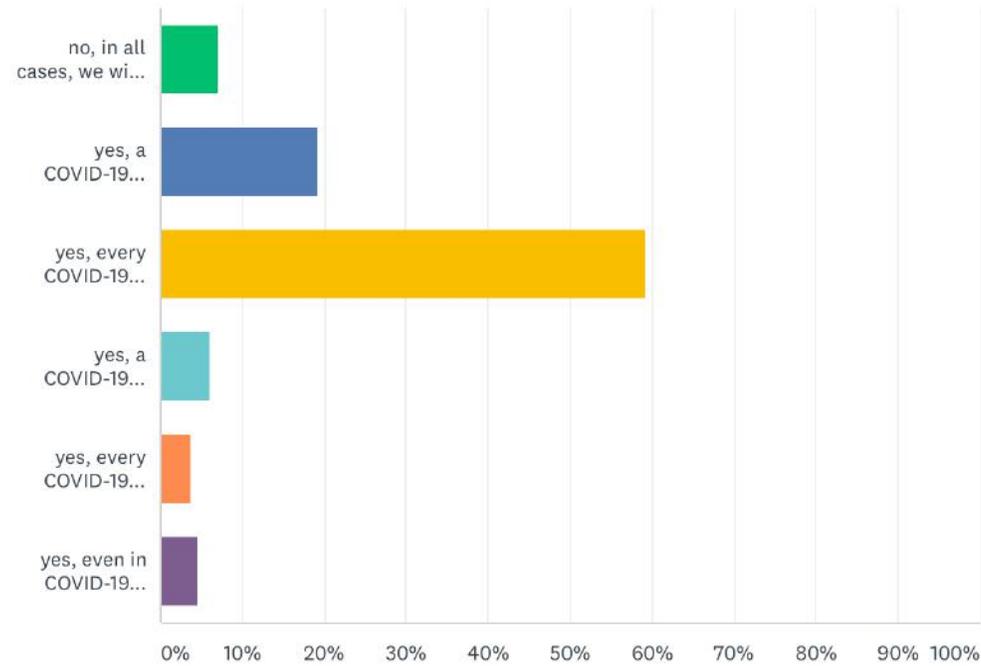
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ nasopharygeal swab	90.77% 364
▼ chest CT	37.41% 150
▼ blood test for antibodies	9.23% 37
▼ sputum	3.49% 14
▼ bronchoalveolar lavage	3.99% 16
▼ Other (please specify)	<a href="#">Responses</a> 4.74% 19
<b>Total Respondents: 401</b>	



# Q11

## Does the result of a test influence the surgical treatment of your patient?

Answered: 398 Skipped: 11



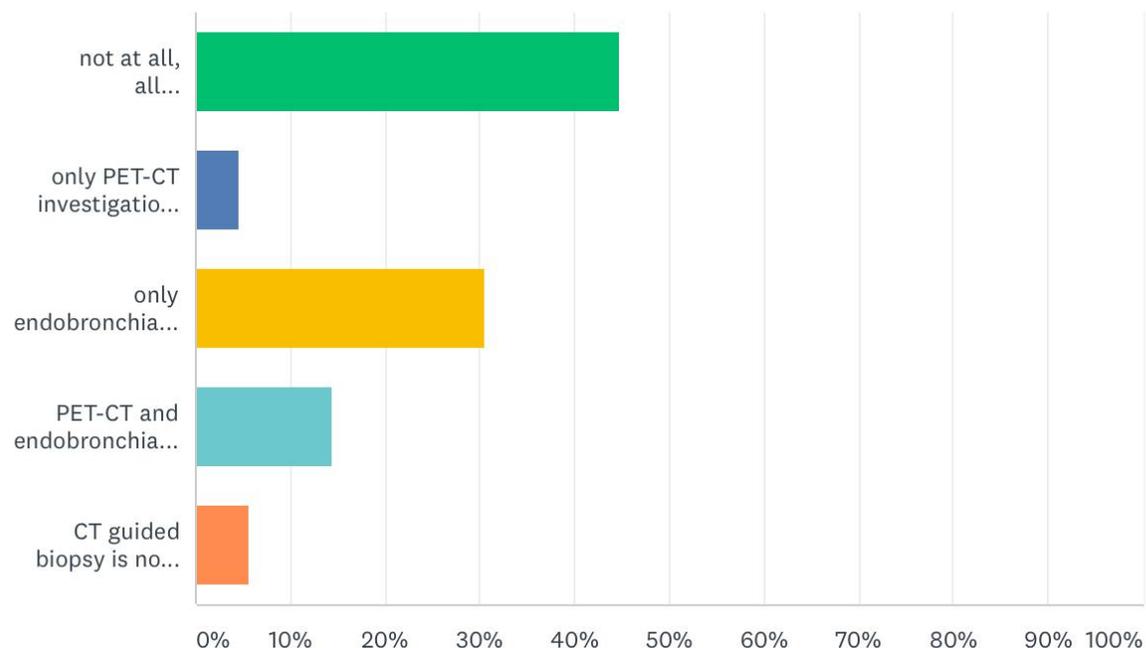
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ no, in all cases, we will operate, but taking necessary precautions and protection equipment when needed	7.04% 28
▼ yes, a COVID-19 positive elective patient with symptoms will not be operated on for 14 days and will be rescheduled afterwards	19.35% 77
▼ yes, every COVID-19 positive elective patient (with or without symptoms) will not be operated on for 14 days and will be rescheduled afterwards	59.30% 236
▼ yes, a COVID-19 positive elective patient with symptoms will not be operated on anymore and other therapy options will be suggested. A COVID-19 positive patient without symptoms will not be operated on for 14 days and will be rescheduled afterwards	6.03% 24
▼ yes, every COVID-19 positive elective patient (with or without symptoms) will not be operated on anymore and other therapy options will be suggested.	3.77% 15
▼ yes, even in COVID-19 positive urgent cases, we will try to find a non-surgical solution	4.52% 18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>398</b>



Q12

# How is the preoperative oncological workup influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic situation?

Answered: 400 Skipped: 9

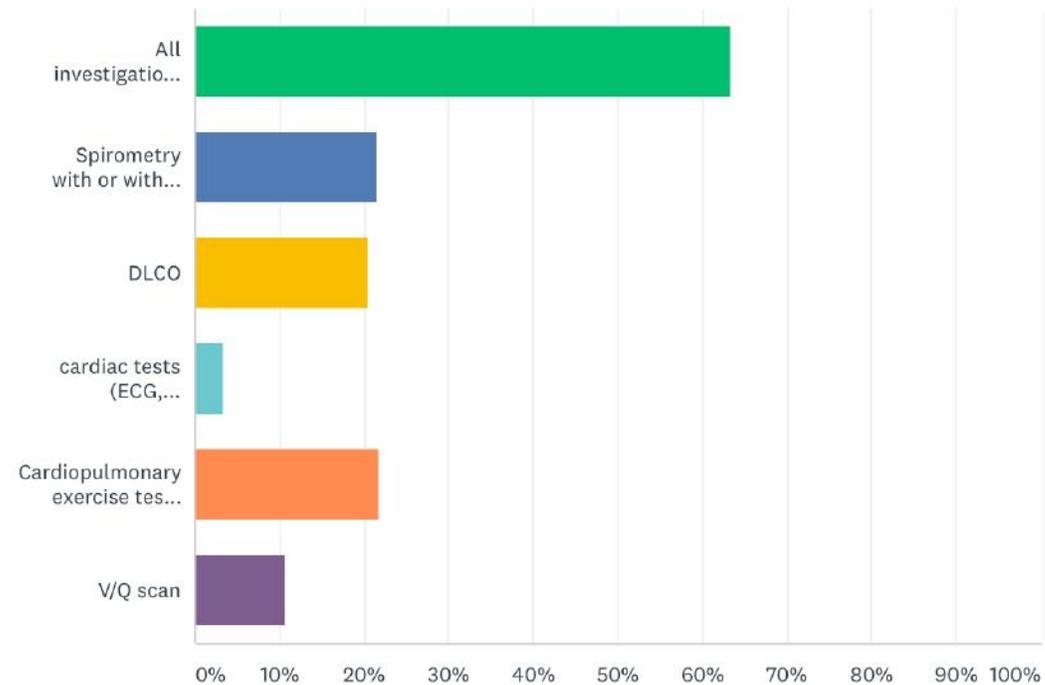


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ not at all, all investigations are available in a normal time frame	44.75%	179
▼ only PET-CT investigations are delayed, or unavailable	4.50%	18
▼ only endobronchial investigations (bronchoscopy, EBUS) are delayed or unavailable	30.50%	122
▼ PET-CT and endobronchial investigations (bronchoscopy, EBUS) are delayed or unavailable	14.50%	58
▼ CT guided biopsy is not routinely available	5.75%	23
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>400</b>



# Which of the following preoperative functional tests are not available due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation?

Answered: 394 Skipped: 15

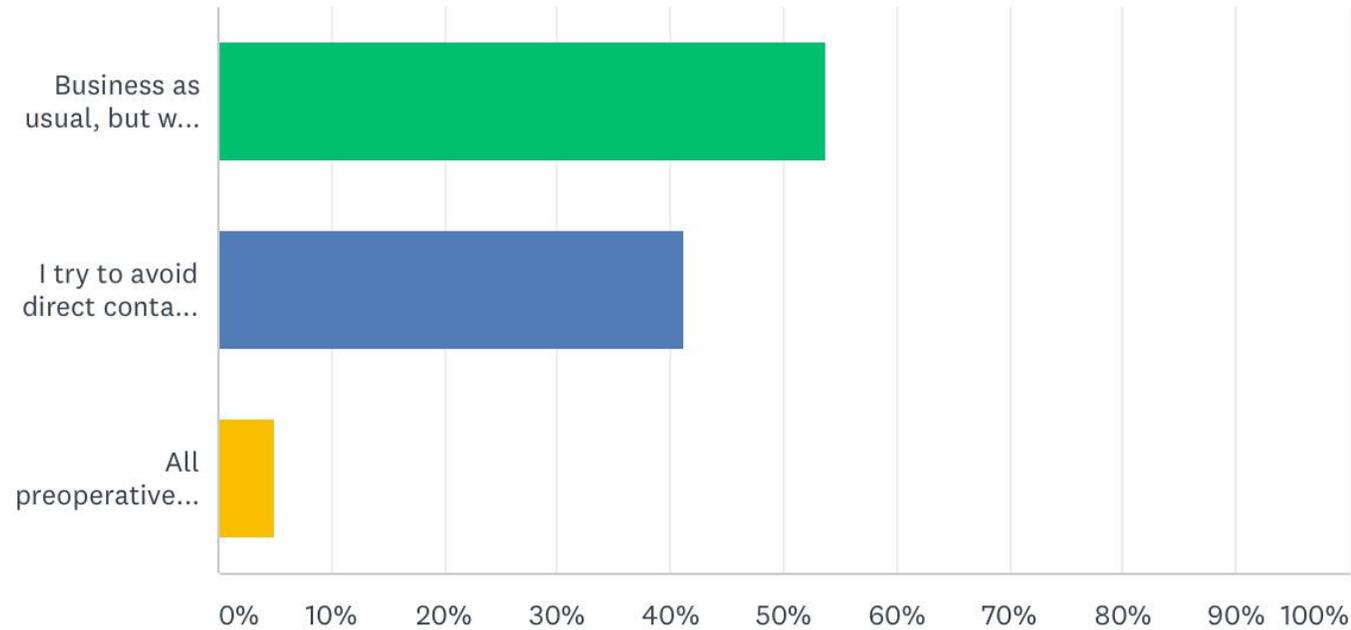


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ All investigations are available as normal	63.45% 250
▼ Spirometry with or without arterial blood gas analyses	21.57% 85
▼ DLCO	20.56% 81
▼ cardiac tests (ECG, Echocardiogram, stress test)	3.30% 13
▼ Cardiopulmonary exercise test (CPET)	21.83% 86
▼ V/Q scan	10.66% 42
<b>Total Respondents: 394</b>	

Q14

# How is your preoperative contact with the patient influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic situation?

Answered: 398 Skipped: 11

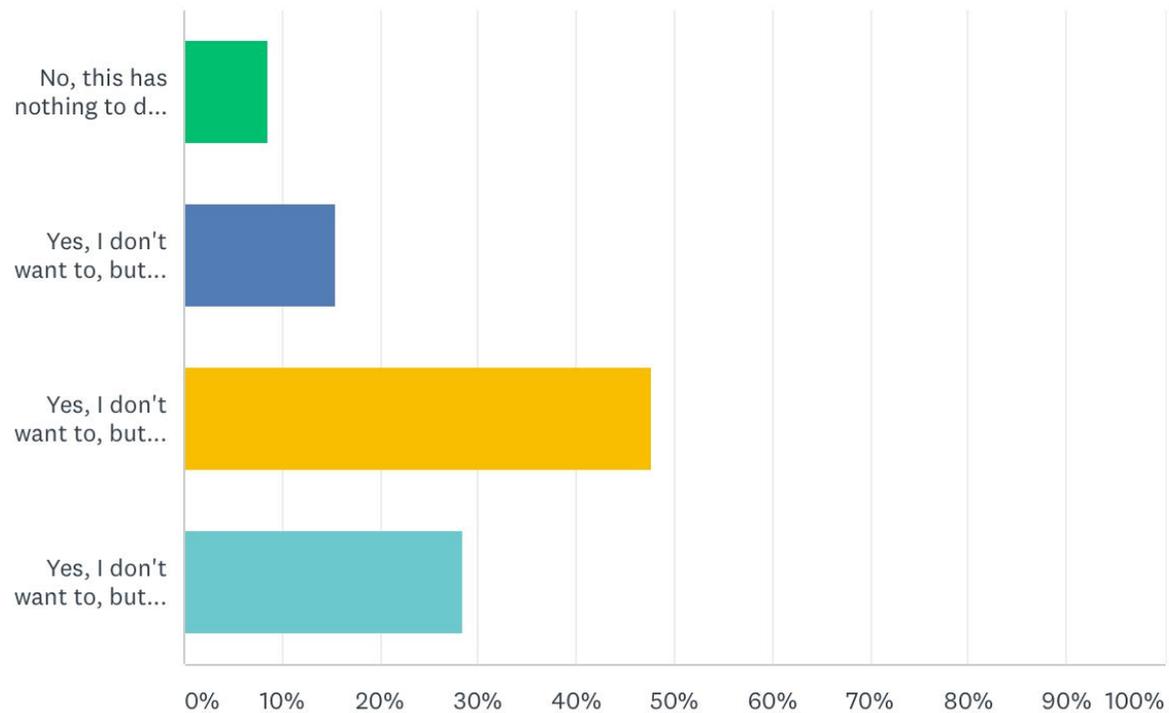


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Business as usual, but with hygienic measures (eg social distancing, surgical mask for surgeon and/or patient)	53.77% 214
▼ I try to avoid direct contact with patients and I have as much tele- or video contacts as possible	41.21% 164
▼ All preoperative patient contacts are through tele- or video calls	5.03% 20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>398</b>



# Do you talk about COVID-19 with your patients preoperatively?

Answered: 395 Skipped: 14

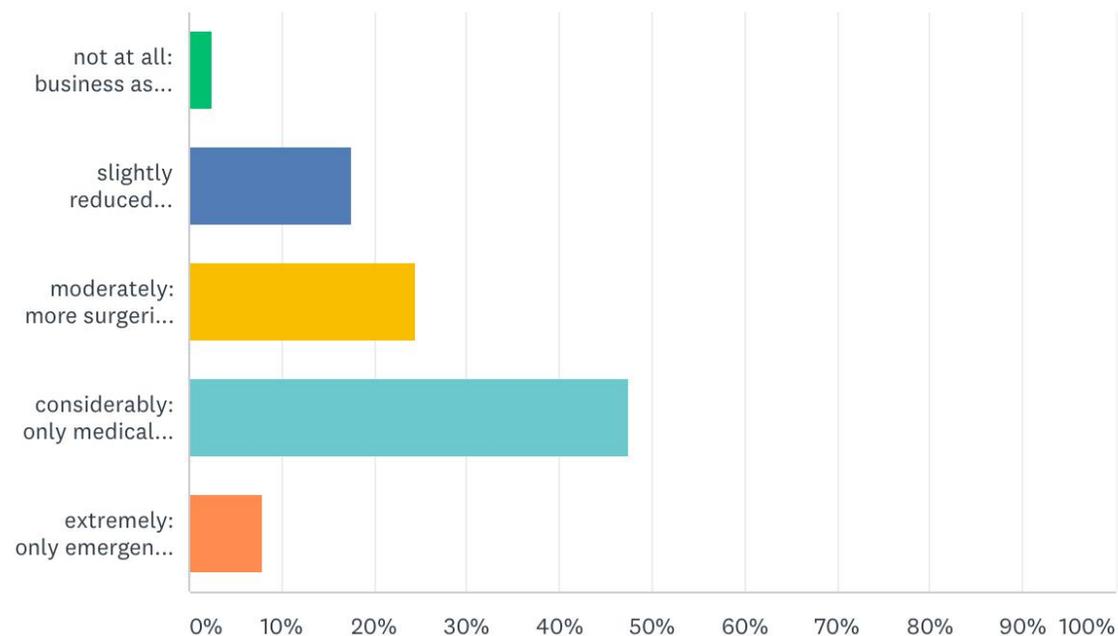


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ No, this has nothing to do with their disease	8.61%	34
▼ Yes, I don't want to, but patients ask about potential higher risks, and I tell them not to worry	15.44%	61
▼ Yes, I don't want to, but patients ask about potential higher risks, and I tell them morbidity and mortality is higher	47.59%	188
▼ Yes, I don't want to, but patients ask about potential higher risks, and I tell them we don't know that yet	28.35%	112
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>395</b>



# How is your surgical planning affected by the COVID-19 pandemic situation?

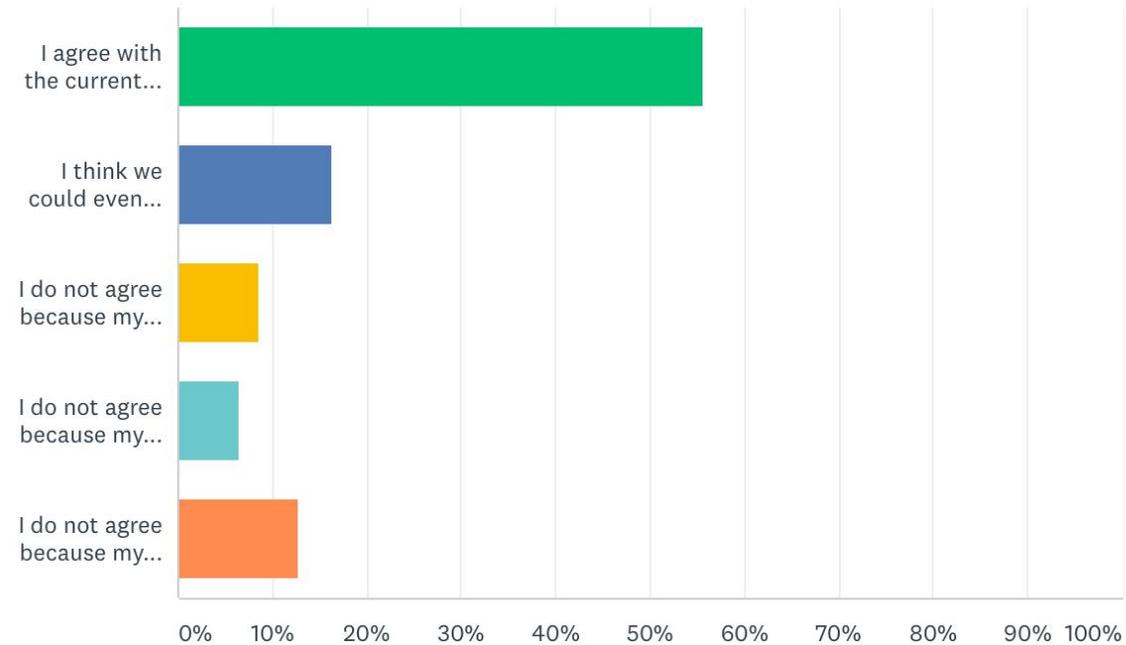
Answered: 400 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
not at all: business as usual	2.50% 10
slightly reduced capacity: some elective benign surgeries have been postponed, but no effect on inpatient care or ICU beds	17.50% 70
moderately: more surgeries have been postponed, less staff and ICU beds available	24.50% 98
considerably: only medically or oncologically urgent surgeries are executed, minimal staff and ICU beds available	47.50% 190
extremely: only emergency surgeries are executed, otherwise no staff and no ICU beds	8.00% 32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400</b>

# How do you feel about the affected planning?

Answered: 397 Skipped: 12

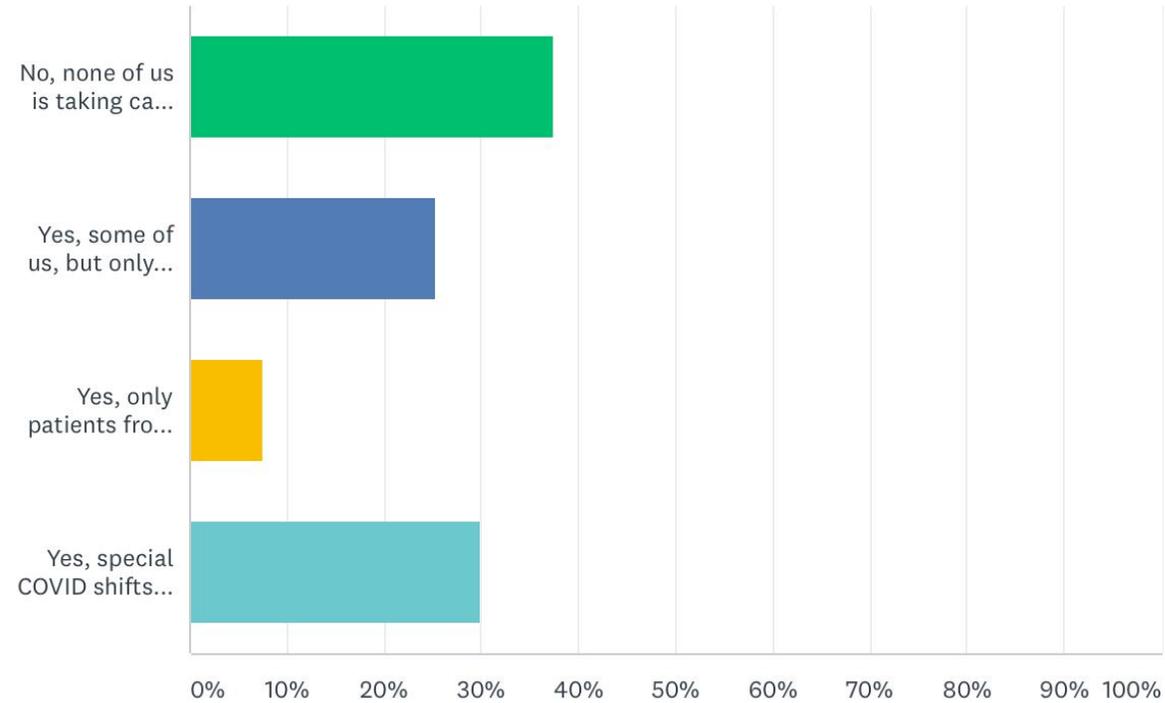


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ I agree with the current situation, this is what needs to be done	55.67% 221
▼ I think we could even reduce thoracic surgery capacity for some time when needed	16.37% 65
▼ I do not agree because my patients need more care than I can offer them, but I am forced because of lack of resources (protective matrial, ICU beds,...)	8.56% 34
▼ I do not agree because my patients need more care than I can offer them, but I am forced because of lack of staff (anesthetists, OR nurses,...)	6.55% 26
▼ I do not agree because my patients need more care than I can offer them, but I am forced because of lack of staff (anesthetists, OR nurses,...) and resourses (protective matrial, ICU beds,...)	12.85% 51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>397</b>

Q18

# Are you and/or your thoracic surgery colleagues involved in the daily care of COVID-19 positive patients?

Answered: 399 Skipped: 10

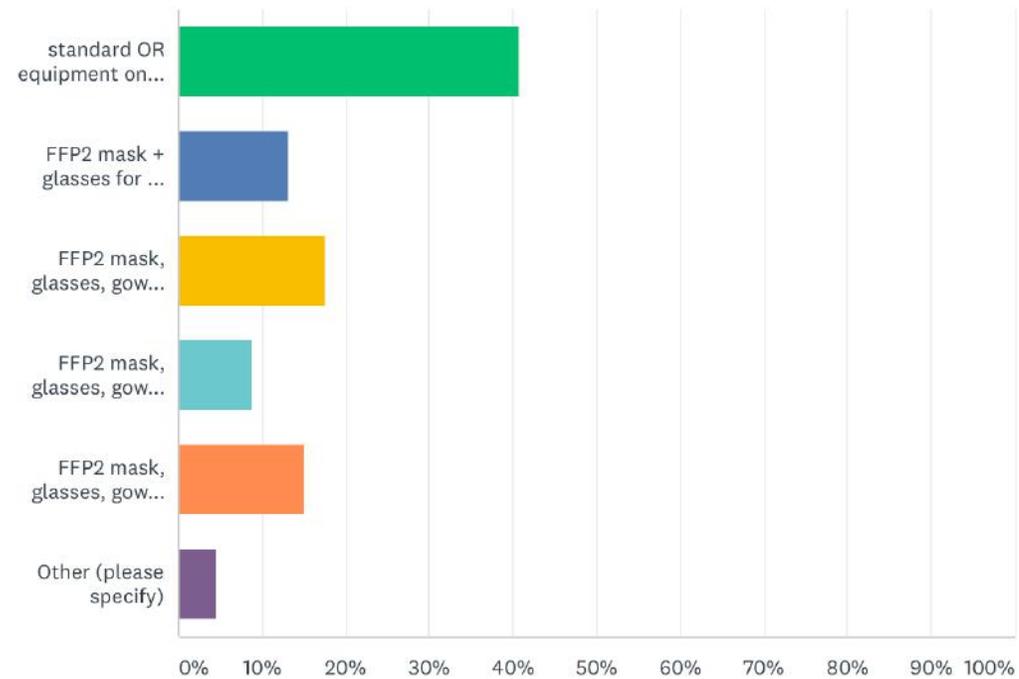


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ No, none of us is taking care of them	37.34%	149
▼ Yes, some of us, but only surgical patients	25.31%	101
▼ Yes, only patients from our department	7.52%	30
▼ Yes, special COVID shifts for other departments (e.g. ICU, IMC, emergency department)	29.82%	119
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>399</b>



# What kind of personal protective equipment (PPE) measures are taken during a COVID-19 negative thoracic surgical procedure?

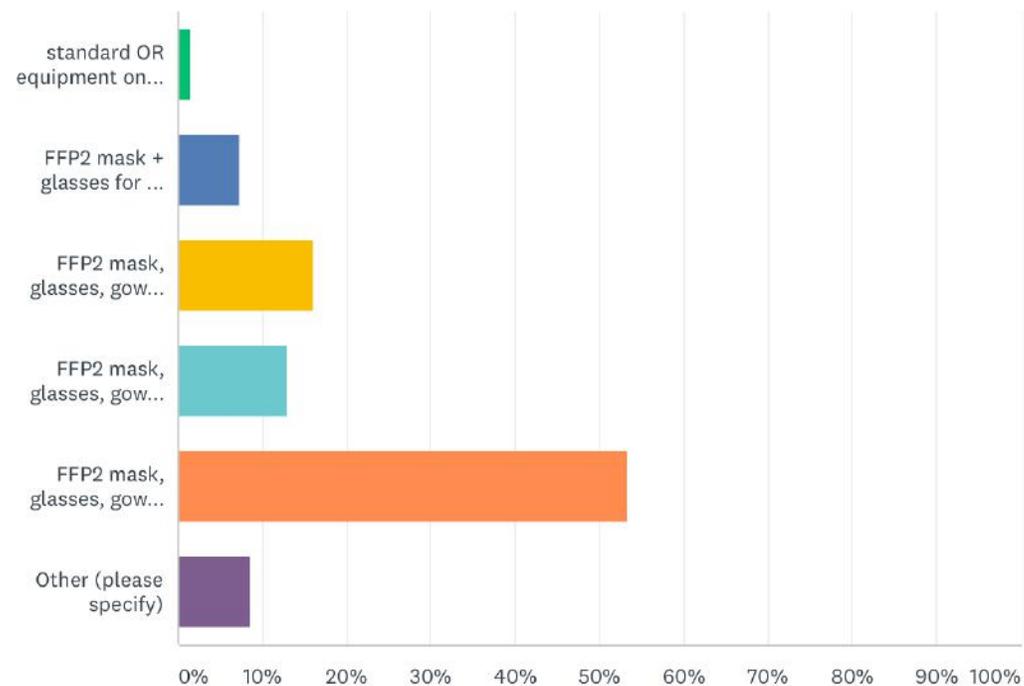
Answered: 399 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ standard OR equipment only for all staff	40.85% 163
▼ FFP2 mask + glasses for all staff in the room	13.28% 53
▼ FFP2 mask, glasses, gown and face shield for anesthetist only and FFP2 mask + glasses for the surgical team	17.54% 70
▼ FFP2 mask, glasses, gown and face shield for anesthetist and surgical team when airways are opened (eg. sleeve lobectomy, tracheal surgery)	8.77% 35
▼ FFP2 mask, glasses, gown and face shield for all staff in the room	15.04% 60
▼ Other (please specify)	<a href="#">Responses</a> 4.51% 18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>399</b>

# What kind of personal protective equipment (PPE) measures are taken during a COVID-19 positive thoracic surgical procedure?

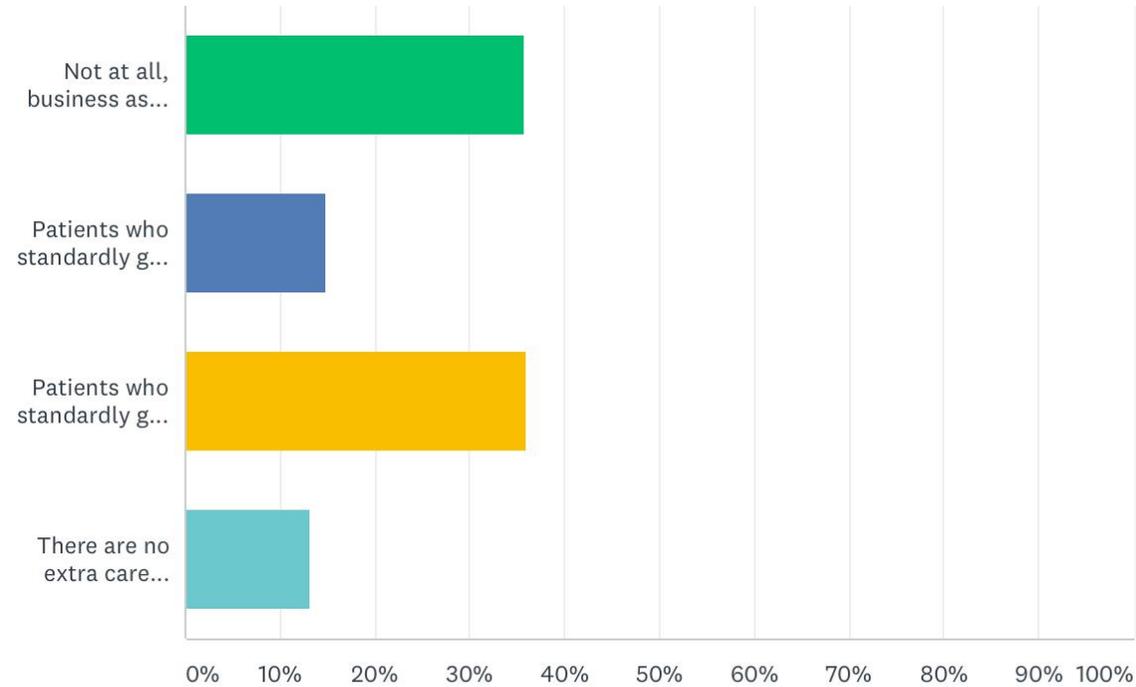
Answered: 395 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ standard OR equipment only for all staff	1.52% 6
▼ FFP2 mask + glasses for all staff in the room	7.34% 29
▼ FFP2 mask, glasses, gown and face shield for anesthetist only and FFP2 mask + glasses for the surgical team	16.20% 64
▼ FFP2 mask, glasses, gown and face shield for anesthetist and surgical team when airways are opened (eg. sleeve lobectomy, tracheal surgery)	12.91% 51
▼ FFP2 mask, glasses, gown and face shield for all staff in the room	53.42% 211
▼ Other (please specify)	<a href="#">Responses</a> 8.61% 34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>395</b>

# How is Intensive Care / PostAnesthesia Care availability for thoracic surgery patients affected by the COVID-19 pandemic situation?

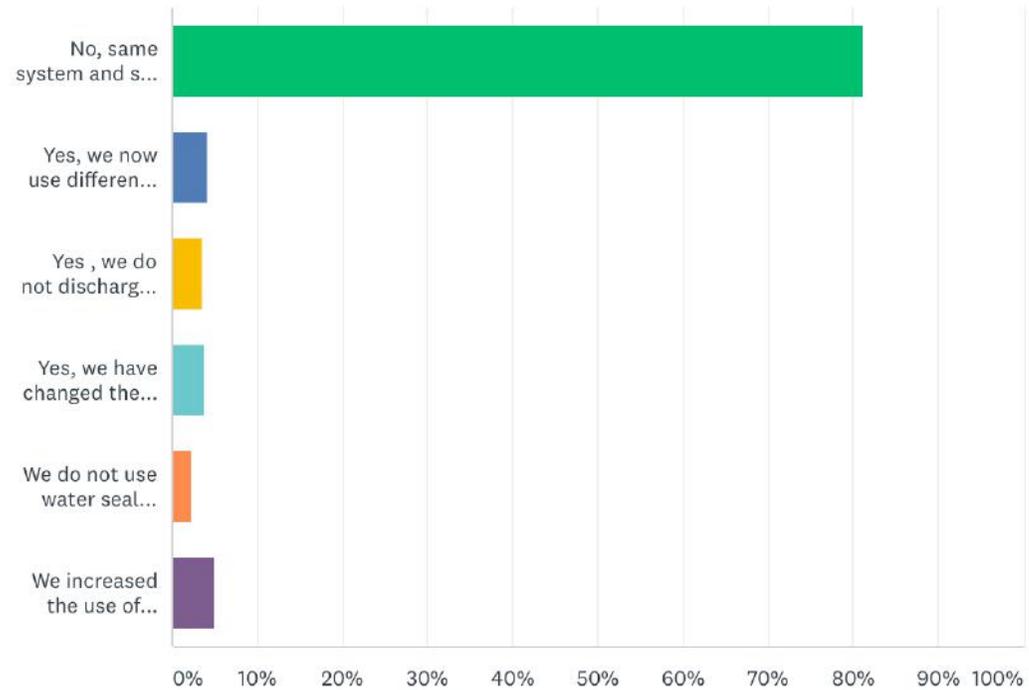
Answered: 377 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Not at all, business as usual	35.81% 135
▼ Patients who standardly go to these units for a longer period stay there for a shorter period	14.85% 56
▼ Patients who standardly go to these units for one night are send earlier to the ward, but some places are available	36.07% 136
▼ There are no extra care patients available. Patients must go the the ward after surgery.	13.26% 50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>377</b>

## Does chest drain management for your thoracic surgery patients during this COVID-19 pandemic differ from your standard management?

Answered: 397 Skipped: 12

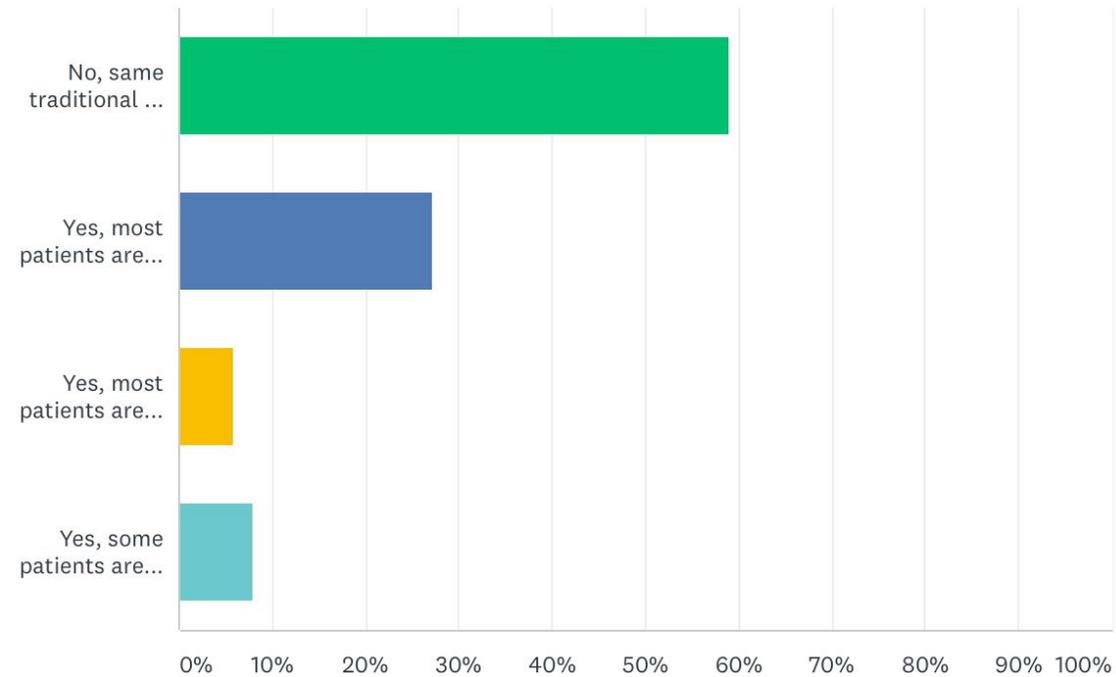


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ No, same system and same protocol used	81.11% 322
▼ Yes, we now use different chest drainage system	4.28% 17
▼ Yes, we do not discharge patients home with chest tube anymore	3.53% 14
▼ Yes, we have changed the removal criteria protocol	3.78% 15
▼ We do not use water seal anymore	2.27% 9
▼ We increased the use of portable digital devices	5.04% 20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>397</b>

Q23

# Do discharge criteria for your thoracic surgery patients during this COVID-19 pandemic differ from your standard criteria?

Answered: 398 Skipped: 11

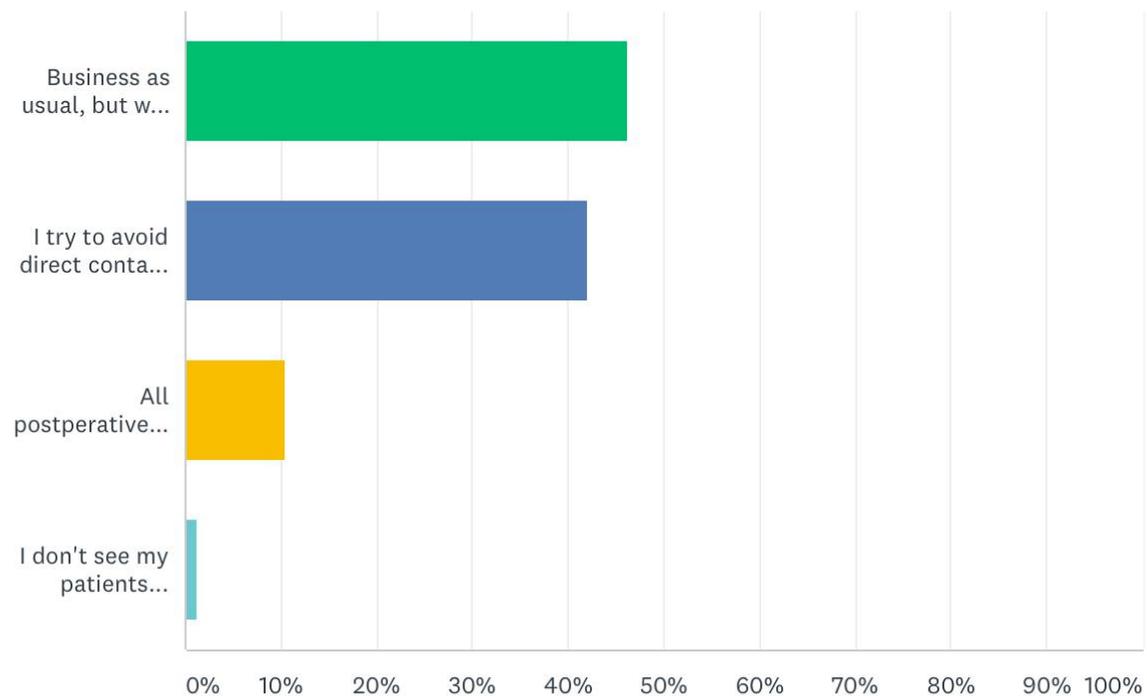


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No, same traditional or enhanced recovery protocol</li> </ul>	59.05% 235
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, most patients are discharged earlier than usual (mostly because of bed capacity and fear of COVID-19 infection)</li> </ul>	27.14% 108
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, most patients are discharged later than usual (mostly because of social distancing measures at home)</li> </ul>	5.78% 23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, some patients are discharged earlier and some later than usual</li> </ul>	8.04% 32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>398</b>



# How is your postoperative contact with the patient influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic situation?

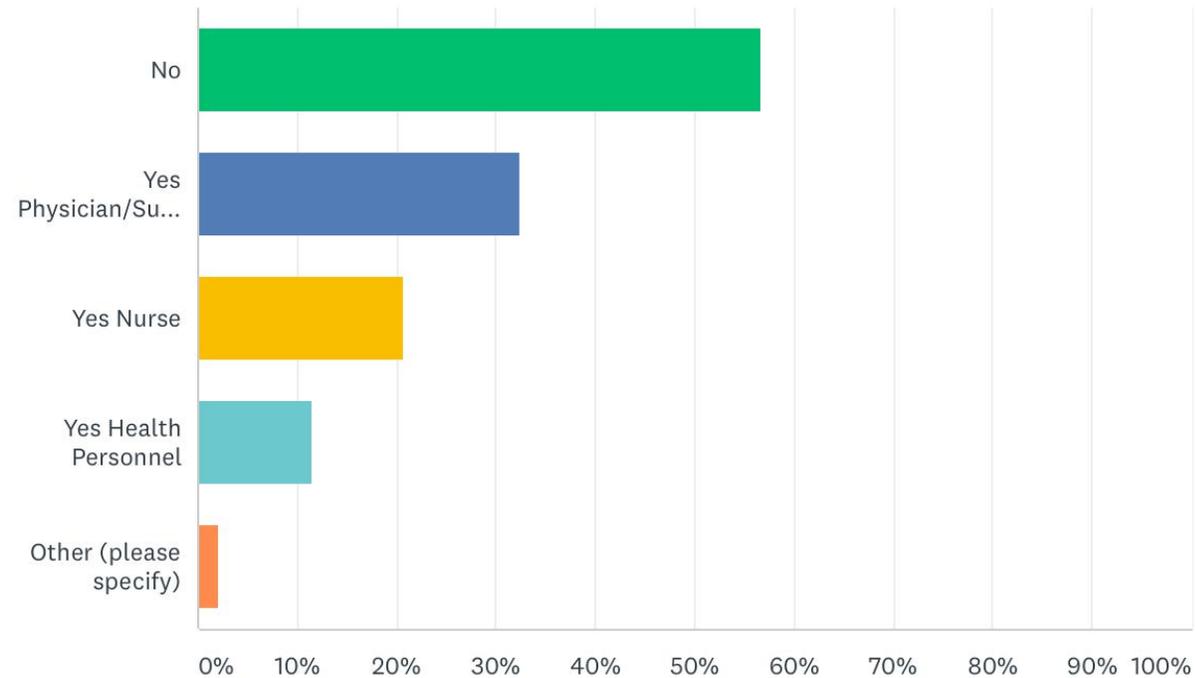
Answered: 398 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Business as usual, but with hygienic measures (eg social distancing, surgical mask for surgeon and/or patient)	46.23% 184
▼ I try to avoid direct contact with patients and I have as much tele- or video contacts as possible	41.96% 167
▼ All postoperative patient contacts are through tele- or video calls	10.55% 42
▼ I don't see my patients postoperatively. They are immediately sent to their family doctors	1.26% 5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>398</b>

# Anyone of your Department was tested positive to COVID-19?

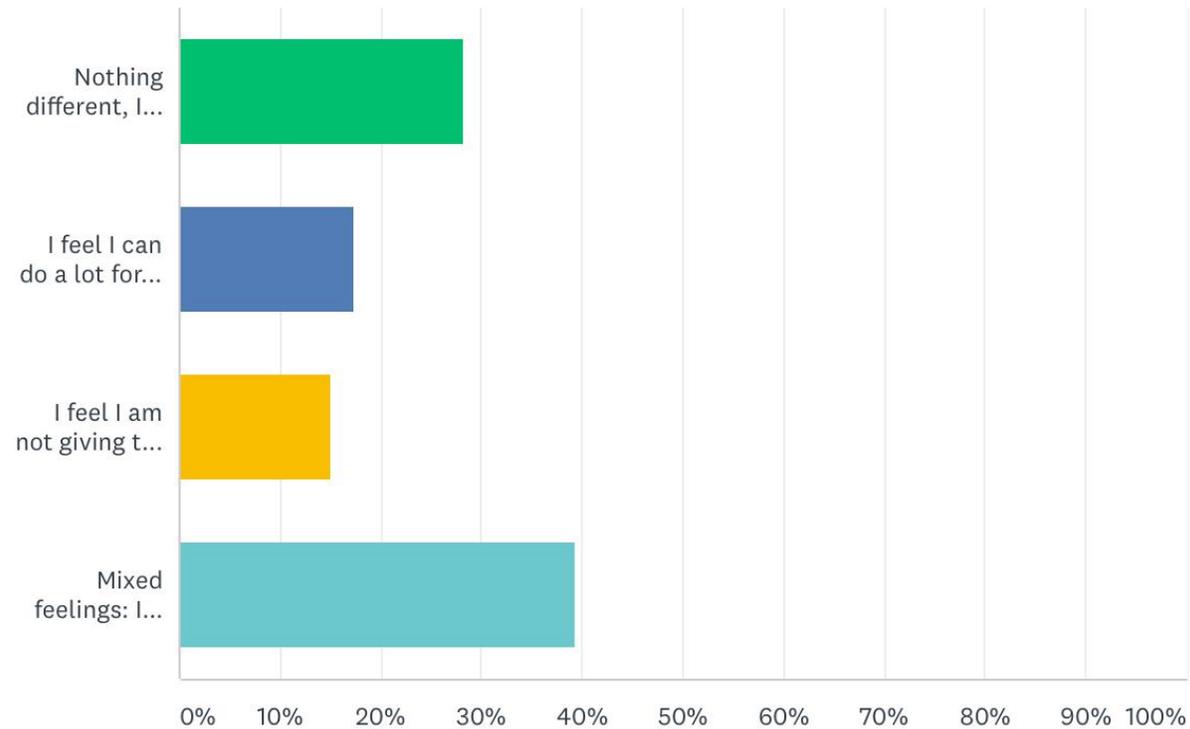
Answered: 399 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ No	56.64% 226
▼ Yes Physician/Surgeon	32.33% 129
▼ Yes Nurse	20.80% 83
▼ Yes Health Personnel	11.53% 46
▼ Other (please specify) <a href="#">Responses</a>	2.01% 8
<b>Total Respondents: 399</b>	

# How do you feel as a thoracic surgeon during this pandemic?

Answered: 399 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Nothing different, I do what I can for my patients	28.32% 113
I feel I can do a lot for other colleagues and patients, since there is shortage of staff	17.29% 69
I feel I am not giving the best care for my thoracic surgery patients	15.04% 60
Mixed feelings: I cannot give the best care for my own patients, but I can help a lot of patients in urgent need.	39.35% 157
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>399</b>

# Future thoughts

•Answered: 86  
•Skipped: 309

hope back to normal work situation as soon as possible

4/18/2020 9:50 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

Everything is passed so this will pass too.

4/17/2020 3:37 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

Recombinant Vaccine Trial (Phase II) is promissig and another Vaccine Trials are urgent needed

4/17/2020 10:06 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

I believe in that we have to learn work and live with this pandemic for a while,maybe two years more and less. We have to bomore equipped and with further precise laboratory tests define the covid 19 carrier patients more seriously. Thanks alot and good luck



4/17/2020 12:48 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

# Future thoughts

We have to make sure that we don't postpone the non-COVID care for too long, because otherwise there will be a second toll to be paid by the non-COVID patients in the long run.

4/16/2020 10:38 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

no one knows the future. Algorithms and strategies keep changing very fast. Thoracic Surgery(lung surgery) may be a very dangerous skill to perform

4/16/2020 9:42 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

Covid testing must become routine in medicine and throughout society until we have an effective vaccine

4/16/2020 7:09 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼

Stock more protective equipment in advance.

4/16/2020 1:40 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add tags](#) ▼



# Thoracic Surgery at the Time of COVID-19: a 27 Q&A Snapshot

On behalf of the ESTS Steering Learning Affairs Committee

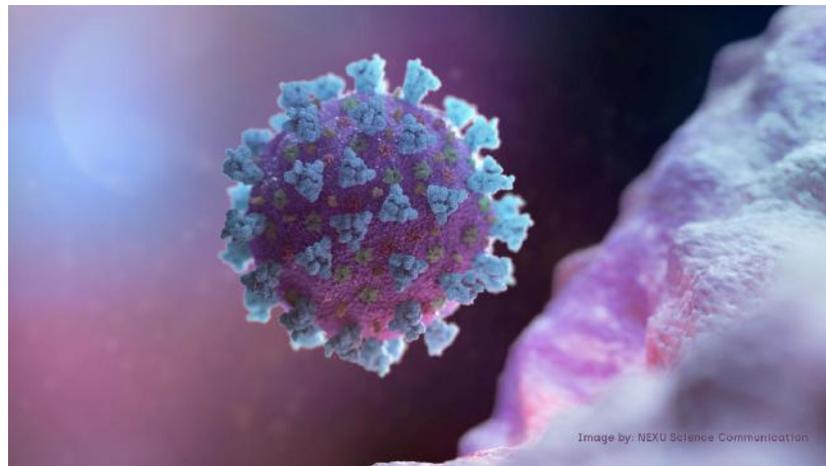


Image by: NEXU Science Communication