



Cataract Surgery during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Insights from a Greek Tertiary Hospital

Tsironi S, **Kavvadas D**, Delis G, Bekiaridou A, Kapourani V, Loizou F, Apostolidou PS, Misiou K, Theofrastou E, Panakleridou T, Psimenidou E, Sarafi A, Fadel E, Karachrysafi S.

Geriatrics (Basel). 2022 Jul 26;7(4):77. doi: 10.3390/geriatrics7040077

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35893324/>

Background: COVID-19 has affected everyday clinical practice, having an impact on the quality of healthcare provided, even in eye clinic departments. The aim of this study is to evaluate the consequences of this worldwide pandemic on cataract surgery in a Greek tertiary university hospital.

Methods: A total of 805 patients were included in this study. The number of cataract surgeries (CS), the type, the unilateral or bilateral appearance as well as the stage of cataract were recorded for the months between January and June 2019 (pre-COVID period) and compared with the same period in 2021 (during the pandemic outbreak) in the Department of Ophthalmology of Thessaloniki General Hospital G. Papanikolaou.

Results: A significant reduction in the number of CS as well as a significant increase in advanced and/or bilateral cataracts in 2021 compared to the pre-COVID period were observed.

Conclusion: The COVID-19 pandemic has affected equally the value of ophthalmic interventions as well as the patients' quality of life, being a powerful reminder of the significant physical and psychological benefits of CS, especially for older adults and patients with comorbidities.