

ANZES Executive Position Statement: Endocrine Surgery during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Defining urgent endocrine surgical conditions.

Dear Colleagues,

In these unprecedented times, we are forced to triage and ration our cases for the following reasons:

- The potential shortage of hospital beds, ICU beds, and ventilators, as well as masks, gowns, and gloves.
- The potential shortage of hospital personnel due to sickness, quarantine and duties at home
- The increasing likelihood that as community spread increases, non-diagnosed patients will expose us, our colleagues, and our staff to COVID-19

We wish to support our members by offering guidelines to define urgent Endocrine surgery during the COVID19 pandemic, and to identify cases that can be safely deferred until the crisis is over. Feel free to share this document with your hospital management.

This position statement has been developed by the ANZES executive, and represents expert opinion. Individual decisions will fall to the surgeon, anaesthetist, and hospital management.

Endocrine surgery cases which may still require surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic include, depending on available hospital resources:

Thyroid

- ATA intermediate or high risk thyroid cancer or suspected cancer
- Severe Graves' disease that is medically uncontrollable
- Goitre with significant and symptomatic airway compromise

Parathyroid

- Hyperparathyroidism with severe hypercalcemia >3.0
- Hyperparathyroidism in pregnancy

Adrenal

- Adrenocortical cancer or highly suspected adrenocortical cancer
- Pheochromocytoma or paraganglioma that is unable to be controlled with medical management
- Cushing's syndrome with significant symptoms that is unable to be controlled with medical management

Most other endocrine surgery can be safely deferred pending increased availability of hospital resources.

Please look after yourselves, and reach out to us if we can support you in any way.

Kind regards,

Associate Professor Julie Miller, ANZES President
Associate Professor Mark Sywak, ANZES Public Officer
Dr Anthony Glover, ANZES Scientific and Education Officer.



AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND
ENDOCRINE SURGEONS