

## Appendix 1: survey

General questions	
Did you scope any patient with confirmed or suspected COVID-19?	Yes / No
If yes, what were the main indications for the examination?	Open answer
Did/does your hospital treat patients with COVID-19?	Yes / No
Do you feel there is an underreporting or underdiagnoses of COVID-19 in your region?	Yes / No
Do you feel COVID-19 can be transmitted to the physician during endoscopy?	Yes / No
Changes to endoscopic activity	
Did you triage patients differently in your center due to the pandemic?	Yes / No
What kind of procedures did you continue doing:	a. Emergency b. Urgent c. Elective d. All of the above
Approximately what percentage of procedures were cancelled or postponed?	No reduction 25-50% 50-75% 75-100%
Was there a time frame for the cancellation/postponement of procedures?	<4 weeks >4 weeks Indefinite
How much did endoscopy reduce in total in your center?	No reduction 25-50% 50-75% 75-100% (stopped completely)
Pre-endoscopy screening measures	
Do you screen patients prior to endoscopy during the pandemic?	Yes / No
What form of pre-endoscopy screening do you use?	a. Questions and history b. Clinical exam c. Temperature check c. PCR-test d. Chest x-ray (multiple answers possible)
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	
Did your PPE regulations change during the pandemic?	Yes / No
What PPE is available in your center for scoping of confirmed or suspected COVID-19?	a. Surgical mask b. N95/FFP2-3 respirator c. Gloves, single pair d. Gloves double pair e. Hairnet f. Goggles or face-shield g. Long-sleeved water-resistant gown (Multiple answers possible)

For which patients did you change your PPE during the pandemic?	a. For all patients b. For confirmed COVID cases c. For suspected COVID cases
Were family members allowed access into the endoscopy unit during the pandemic?	Yes / No
What was the most limited PPE during the pandemic?	a. Surgical mask b. N95/FFP2-3 respirator c. Gloves, single pair d. Gloves double pair e. Hairnet f. Goggles or face-shield g. Long-sleeved water-resistant gown
Did you reuse PPE?	Yes / No
What were your reuse strategies?	Open answers
Does your endoscopy unit have a negative-pressure room for scoping of COVID cases?	Yes / No
Did your center dedicate a specific area for scoping of confirmed or suspected COVID cases?	Yes / No
<b>Handling of endoscopes during the pandemic</b>	
Did you change your disinfection or cleaning protocol during the pandemic?	Yes / No
If yes, please specify	Open answer
Any change in protection of cleaning personnel during the pandemic?	Yes / No
<b>Return strategy after COVID</b>	
Is your center already considering changing back to normalcy due to reduction in COVID infections?	Yes / No
Do you have a return-to-normal strategy?	Yes / No
What is your return-to-normal strategy?	a. No change because COVID did not affect our center b. Continue with our present COVID strategy c. Return to normal but with surgical masks for all procedures d. Return to normal but with prescreening procedures and risk stratification of patients e. Others – please specify (multiple answers possible)

## Appendix 2: results

### I. Responses of participants from Africa:

#### 1. Before the COVID pandemic, what was the total number of patients scoped in your centre per month?

Answer Choices	Responses	
< 100	52,94%	18
100-200	23,53%	8
200-300	2,94%	1
> 300	20,59%	4
	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>

#### 2. Have you scoped patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	11,76%	2
No	88,24%	29
	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>

#### 3. Did/does your hospital treat patients with COVID-19?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	61,76%	18
No	38,24%	13
	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>

#### 4. Do you feel there is an underreporting or underdiagnoses of COVID-19 in your region?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	76,47%	25
No	23,53%	6
	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>

#### 5. Do you feel COVID-19 can be transmitted to the physician during endoscopy?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	97,06%	30
No	2,94%	1
	<b>100%</b>	<b>31</b>

#### 6. Did you triage patients differently in your center due to the pandemic?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	93,94%	28
No	6,06%	2
	<b>100%</b>	<b>30</b>

**7. Which kind of procedures did you continue doing? (please tick all which are applicable)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Emergency	87,88%	26
Urgent	66,67%	22
Elective	12,12%	4
All of the above	15,15%	5
		<b>30</b>

**8. Approximately what percentage of procedures were cancelled or postponed?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
No reduction	9,38%	3
25-50%	21,88%	6
50-75%	34,38%	10
75-100%	34,38%	10
	<b>100%</b>	<b>29</b>

**9. Was there a time frame for the cancellation of procedures?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 4 weeks	12,50%	3
Over 4 weeks	40,63%	12
Indefinite	46,88%	14
	<b>100%</b>	<b>29</b>

**10. How much did endoscopy reduce in total in your center?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
No reduction	6,06%	2
25-50%	27,27%	7
50-75%	30,30%	10
75-100% (Stopped completely)	36,36%	11
	<b>100%</b>	<b>30</b>

**11. Did you prescreen patients during the pandemic?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	83,33%	22
No	16,67%	5

**12. If you did prescreen patients, how was this carried out? - multiple answers possible**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Questions and history	88,89%	22
Clinical exam	33,33%	9
Temperature check	85,19%	22
PCR-test	14,81%	3
Chest x-ray	11,11%	3
		<b>24</b>

**13. Did your PPE regulations change during the pandemic?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	96,67%	26
No	3,33%	1
	<b>100%</b>	<b>27</b>

**14. What PPE is available in your center for scoping of confirmed or suspected COVID-19? (Please tick all which are applicable)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Surgical mask	60,71%	14
N95/FFP2-3 respirator	85,71%	21
Gloves, single pair	35,71%	7
Gloves, double pair	67,86%	16
Hairnet	60,71%	14
Goggles or face-shield	82,14%	20
Long-sleeved water-resistant gown	57,14%	13
		<b>25</b>

**15. For which patients did you change your PPE during the pandemic?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
For all patients	82,14%	30
For confirmed COVID patients	3,57%	1
For suspected COVID patients	14,29%	4
	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>

**16. Were family members allowed access into the endoscopy unit during the pandemic?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	20,00%	6
No	80,00%	21
	<b>100%</b>	<b>27</b>

**17. What was the most limited PPE during the pandemic? (please tick all which are applicable)**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Surgical mask	17,24%	5
N95/FFP2-3 respirator	82,76%	21
Gloves, single pair	13,79%	4
Gloves, double pair	6,90%	2
Hairnet	13,79%	4
Goggles or face-shield	27,59%	8
Long-sleeved water-resistant gown	51,72%	14
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>26</b>

**18. Did you reuse PPE?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	43,33%	14
No	56,67%	15
	<b>100%</b>	<b>27</b>

**19. Does your endoscopy unit have a negative-pressure room for scoping of COVID cases?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	10,00%	2
No	90,00%	25
	<b>100%</b>	<b>27</b>

**20. Did your center dedicate a specific area for scoping of confirmed or suspected COVID cases?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	24,14%	5
No	75,86%	21
	<b>100%</b>	<b>26</b>

**21. Did you change your disinfection or cleaning protocol during the pandemic?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	23,33%	6
No	76,67%	22
	<b>100%</b>	<b>28</b>

**22. Has there been any change in protection of cleaning personnel during the pandemic?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	67,86%	17
No	32,14%	8
	<b>100%</b>	<b>25</b>

**23. Is your center already considering changing back to normalcy due to reduction in COVID infections?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	56,00%	12
No	44,00%	11
	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>

**24. Do you have a return-to-normal strategy?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	42,31%	9
No	57,69%	14
	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>

**25. If you have one, what is your return to normal strategy?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
No change, because COVID did not affect our centre	0,00%	0
Continue with our present COVID strategy	11,76%	2
Return to normal but with surgical masks for all procedures	47,06%	8
Return to normal but with prescreening procedures and risk stratification of patients	64,71%	9
Other (please specify)	5,88%	1
	<b>100%</b>	<b>15</b>

**II. Responses of participants from Australia, Denmark and Germany**

**1. Before the COVID pandemic, what was the total number of patients scoped in your centre per month?**

**Australia >300**

**Denmark >300**

**Germany >300**

**2. Have you scoped patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19?**

<b>Australia</b>	No
------------------	----

<b>Denmark</b>	Yes
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**3. Did/does your hospital treat patients with COVID-19?**

<b>Australia</b>	Yes
<b>Denmark</b>	Yes
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**4. Do you feel there is an underreporting or underdiagnoses of COVID-19 in your region?**

<b>Australia</b>	No
<b>Denmark</b>	Yes
<b>Germany</b>	No

**5. Do you feel COVID-19 can be transmitted to the physician during endoscopy?**

<b>Australia</b>	Yes
<b>Denmark</b>	Yes
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**6. Did you triage patients differently in your center due to the pandemic?**

<b>Australia</b>	Yes
<b>Denmark</b>	Yes
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**7. Which kind of procedures did you continue doing? (please tick all which are applicable)**

<b>Australia</b>	Emergency, Urgent
<b>Denmark</b>	Emergency, Urgent
<b>Germany</b>	Emergency, Urgent

**8. Approximately what percentage of procedures were cancelled or postponed?**

<b>Australia</b>	75-100%
<b>Denmark</b>	50-75%
<b>Germany</b>	25-50%

**9. Was there a time frame for the cancellation of procedures?**

<b>Australia</b>	Under 4 weeks
<b>Denmark</b>	Indefinite
<b>Germany</b>	Over 4 weeks

**10. How much did endoscopy reduce in total in your center?**

<b>Australia</b>	75-100% (Stopped completely)
<b>Denmark</b>	25-50%
<b>Germany</b>	25-50%



**11. Did you prescreen patients during the pandemic?**

Australia	Yes
Denmark	Yes
Germany	Yes

**12. If you did prescreen patients, how was this carried out? - multiple answers possible**

Australia	Questions and history; temperature check
Denmark	PCR-Test
Germany	Questions and history; temperature check

**13. Did your PPE regulations change during the pandemic?**

Australia	Yes
Denmark	Yes
Germany	Yes

**14. What PPE is available in your center for scoping of confirmed or suspected COVID-19? (Please tick all which are applicable)**

Australia	All
Denmark	All
Germany	All

**15. For which patients did you change your PPE during the pandemic?**

Australia	For all patients
Denmark	For all patients
Germany	For all patients

**16. Were family members allowed access into the endoscopy unit during the pandemic?**

Australia	No
Denmark	No
Germany	No

**17. What was the most limited PPE during the pandemic? (please tick all which are applicable)**

Australia	N95/FFP2-3 respirator
Denmark	N95/FFP2-3 respirator
Germany	N95/FFP2-3 respirator; water resist. gown

**18. Did you reuse PPE?**

Australia	No
-----------	----

<b>Denmark</b>	No
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**19. Does your endoscopy unit have a negative-pressure room for scoping of COVID cases?**

<b>Australia</b>	No
<b>Denmark</b>	No
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**20. Did your center dedicate a specific area for scoping of confirmed or suspected COVID cases?**

<b>Australia</b>	Yes
<b>Denmark</b>	No
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**21. Did you change your disinfection or cleaning protocol during the pandemic?**

<b>Australia</b>	No
<b>Denmark</b>	No
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**22. Has there been any change in protection of cleaning personnel during the pandemic?**

<b>Australia</b>	Yes
<b>Denmark</b>	No
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**23. Is your center already considering changing back to normalcy due to reduction in COVID infections?**

<b>Australia</b>	Yes
<b>Denmark</b>	
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**24. Do you have a return-to-normal strategy?**

<b>Australia</b>	Yes
<b>Denmark</b>	No
<b>Germany</b>	Yes

**25. If you have one, what is your return to normal strategy?**

<b>Australia</b>	Return to normal but with surgical masks for all procedures; Return to normal but with prescreening procedures and risk stratification of patients
<b>Denmark</b>	-

<b>Germany</b>	Return to normal but with surgical masks for all procedures; Return to normal but with prescreening procedures and risk stratification of patients
----------------	--