

# THE LANCET

## Gastroenterology & Hepatology

### Supplementary appendix

This appendix formed part of the original submission. We post it as supplied by the authors.

Supplement to: Rees CJ, Rutter MD, Sharp L, et al. COVID-19 as a barrier to attending for gastrointestinal endoscopy: weighing up the risks. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2020; published online Sept 1. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-1253\(20\)30268-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-1253(20)30268-5).

**Table 1**  
**Informing patients of the risks of GI Endoscopy**

Aspect	Evidence	Reference
Gastrointestinal Endoscopy is crucially important for diagnosing cancer early	Around 2% of patients attending for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy will have cancer diagnosed	<sup>1</sup> Rutter MD et al.
	Around 10% of patients attending as part of the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme or symptomatic patients with elevated Faecal Immunochemical Tests will have bowel cancer diagnosed	<sup>1</sup> Rutter MD et al. <sup>2</sup> Nicholson BD et al.
	Delays to cancer diagnosis caused by COVID-19 will lead to a significant increase in cancer deaths	<sup>3</sup> Cancer Research UK. <sup>4</sup> Lai A et al. <sup>5</sup> Maringe C et al.
	Diagnosing cancer earlier means it is more likely to be curable and patients will require less aggressive treatment	<sup>6</sup> Lui TKL et al.
The risks of catching COVID-19 by attending hospital for GI endoscopy are extremely small	There is only one published case reported in the world literature of a patient who may have caught COVID-19 at endoscopy	<sup>7</sup> Repici A et al.
	A recent UK study of >6000 patients attending for GI Endoscopy demonstrated zero cases of COVID-19 at 14 days post procedure	<sup>8</sup> Personal correspondence.
	Endoscopy departments have instituted multiple measures to protect patients including:  Pre-procedure testing of patients for COVID-19  Screening tools to reduce risks of patients infected with COVID-19 attending endoscopy  Strict social distancing  Wearing of masks  Reduced patient time at hospitals  Reduced numbers of staff in rooms	<sup>9</sup> British Society of Gastroenterology. <sup>10</sup> British Society of Gastroenterology. <sup>11</sup> Rees CJ et al. <sup>12</sup> Chiu PWY et al. <sup>13</sup> Gralnek IM et al. <sup>14</sup> Repici A et al. <sup>15</sup> Soetikno R et al. <sup>7</sup> Repici A et al. <sup>16</sup> Calderwood AH et al. <sup>17</sup> British Society of

	Enhanced room cleaning Vigilant use of PPE	Gastroenterology <sup>18</sup> Han J et al.
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