



# WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES

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## WFNS CENTRAL OFFICE

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Dear Colleagues,

As most of you have experienced, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant disruption to surgical services, including neurosurgery, worldwide.

During this difficult time, it is important that we collect data to examine the outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 positive patients undergoing surgery but also understand the impact of the pandemic on patients who require surgery for an intracranial tumour.

The WFNS has endorsed and is supporting two observational studies coordinated by the NIHR Global Surgery Unit at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.

- The [CovidSurg Cohort study](#) is focusing on SARS-CoV-2 positive patients undergoing surgery and will examine their outcomes.
- The [CovidSurg-Cancer study](#) is focusing on patients with a tumour that requires surgical treatment during the pandemic. It will examine the outcomes of patients operated but also the outcomes of patients who are experiencing delays in receiving surgery.

The studies have been designed by an international collaborating group of surgeons and anaesthetists, from the United Kingdom, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Korea, Singapore, Spain, and the United States.

The NIHR Global Surgery Unit at the University of Birmingham is providing the infrastructure and is coordinating the study. The team at Birmingham are overseeing the [REDCap study database](#) and are following the same model as the successful [GlobalSurg studies](#).

Importantly, **all intracranial tumours are included**, as it is recognised that even "benign intracranial tumours" can require urgent attention. Any hospital in the world can take part subject to local approvals; as this is a purely observational study and no identifiable data are included, the approvals are not cumbersome. Local clinicians from the participating units tend to form teams of 3-5 people and enter data for their hospital. The participation of residents is helpful.



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I would encourage as many of you as possible to participate in both studies, as this way we will hopefully end up with a large number of neurosurgical patients. In turn, this will allow us to draw some meaningful conclusions specific to neurosurgery.

To read more and to register your centre, please visit:

<https://globalsurg.org/covidsurg/>

With my best wishes,

Professor Franco Servadei  
President, World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies  
Humanitas University and Research Hospital  
Milan, Italy