

COVID-19 Guidelines for Endocrine Surgery

Australian and New Zealand Endocrine Surgeons, General Surgeons Australia & New Zealand Association of General Surgeons

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Practicing during the COVID-19 pandemic requires strategies to minimise risk to patients and health care providers.

Numerous guidelines relating to high risk surgical procedures have been issued, particularly "Aerosol Generating Procedures" (AGPs), which increase the risk of transmission to providers in proximity.

AGPs include endotracheal intubation, extubation, tracheostomy, bronchoscopy, and ENT procedures involving the upper aerodigestive tract, as well as gastroscopy and colonoscopy.

Procedures commonly performed by Endocrine and General Surgeons that are in the head and neck region, but are not AGPs, and carry no increased risk over other non-AGPs include:

- Thyroid and parathyroid surgery
- Cervical lymph node dissection
- Parotid (external approach) and submandibular gland surgery
- Thyroglossal and branchial cyst excision

Specific precautions advised for AGPs, over and above standard universal precautions, are not indicated for the above procedures.

Signed:



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