

The Editor in Chief
World Journal of Meta-Analysis

Dear Sir or Madam,

We would like to thank the reviewers for their time and effort in reviewing our manuscript 74907. We have read the reviewers' comments and made the necessary corrections.

Please allow us to submit a revised version of the manuscript, with the changes made listed below:

- Reviewer 1 Commented: This review by authors was conducted to elucidate the role of robot surgery and digital responses to disrupted operative care during the covid pandemic. From the evidence-based medicine viewpoint, it contains valuable concepts about the clinical science. However, a literature search was performed such as using PubMed, EMBASE and Cochrane Library Central database are suggested to describe. In addition, some references are also needed to update. Totally, I would like to congratulate the authors for the enthusiasm invested in this study.

We would like to thank the reviewer for their comments. We have performed a literature search using pubmed, EMBASE and the Cochrane library, as suggested. We have now expanded the literature search and the citation list to 20 references.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: The title does not reflect the essence of the article. The article is called "Robot Surgery and Digital Responses to Disrupted Operative Care during the COVID Pandemic at a Caribbean Hospital", but little has been written about robotic surgery, more has been written about the functioning of an outpatient clinic and emergency surgery.

The reviewer's point is noted. In response, we have changed the title of the paper to: "Responses to Disrupted Operative Care during the Coronavirus (COVID) Pandemic at a Caribbean Hospital". We believe this better reflects the focus of the paper and we hope that this satisfies the reviewer's concern.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: Abstract. The summary is only about the problems associated with the pandemic, but it does not talk about robotic surgery. The abstract doesn't reflect the work described in the manuscript

The reviewer's comments are accepted. We accept that the paper focuses more on the general responses. Therefore, we have removed "robotic surgery" from the title and the abstract summary.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: The key words reflect the focus of the title of paper.

The reviewer's comments are noted. The key words have been changed in response. We believe that the new key words better reflect the contents: public health, surgery, pandemic, coronavirus (COVID).

- Reviewer 2 Commented: Background. The background section describes the situation during the pandemic in the Caribbean healthcare system, however it doesn't describe present status and significance of the study.

The reviewer's concern is noted. Therefore, we have added a section on the present status in the discussion section / Way Forward. In this section, we specify that Trinidad & Tobago is still in its third wave of the COVID pandemic and the existing responses remained in place.

We have also added a section on the significance of the study under the title "Way Forward" where we specify the significance of this discursive paper on the healthcare system moving forward in three specific areas: leadership, critical assessment of the healthcare system and the existing limitations

- Reviewer 2 Commented: Methods. Manuscript doesn't describe methods in details

Thank you for these comments. Please note that this is a discursive paper and not a research study that requires reporting of methods or results. No changes are required in response.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: No results in the manuscript.

Thank you for these comments. We have already clarified that this was a discursive paper and not a research study that requires reporting of methods or results. No changes are required in response.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: Discussion. The manuscript doesn't interpret the findings adequately and appropriately. Key points are absent. There is no analysis of the using of the robotic surgery.

We acknowledge that there is insufficient discussion on the use of robotic surgery and so we have removed this from the title. It remains included as a two-paragraph discussion under the "Operating Room Response" section. The key points have now been clearly discussed and labeled as key points: (1) Outpatient Care Responses, (2) Multidisciplinary Care Response (3) Emergency Care Response and (4) Operating Room Response.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: Illustrations and tables. the figures sufficient, good quality and appropriately illustrative of the paper contents.

Thank you for these comments. No changes are required in response.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: Biostatistics. no biostatistics in manuscript.

Thank you for these comments. There are no biostatistics in this paper as it is a discursive paper to outline public health responses and not to report and/or analyze data. No changes are required in response.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: Units. Not necessary to use SI units.

Thank you for these comments. No changes are required in response.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: References. Particular attention should be paid to the fact that author over used self-citing. The list of references contains 17 sources, 11 of which are self-citing

The reviewer's concern is well received. As a result, we have expanded the literature search and expanded the citation list to 20 references. Of this, self-citations have been reduced to seven.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: Quality of manuscript organization and presentation. The style, language and grammar are accurate and appropriate.

Thank you for these comments. No changes are required in response.

- Reviewer 2 Commented: Research methods and reporting. The author didn't prepare the manuscript according to the appropriate research methods and reporting.

This was an invited opinions piece. As a discursive paper, we aimed to describe the response in a resource-poor hospital in the Caribbean. It is not intended to be a research study paper and so it was not necessary to use "research methods and reporting" guidelines by dividing into the normal sections (introduction, methods, results, conclusions).

- Reviewer 2 Commented: Ethics statements. No ethical violations The review is missing an aim. The functioning of one hospital during the pandemic is described and there is no comparison.

We would like to thank the reviewer for their comments. This is a discursive paper that describes the response in one resource-poor hospital. It is not intended to be a comparative paper and so there is no comparison included.

- Reviewer 3 commented: General comments: Thank you for the opportunity to review this timely article on an important topic for surgical specialty's, especially in the COVID-19 pandemic times, bringing as an experience a resource-poor health care facilities in the Caribbean. This paper discusses the surgical specialty's response in order to identify positive changes that may continue post-pandemic. I recommend that in the abstract the authors replace "discursive paper" for "In this experience report, we examined"

As suggested by the reviewer, we have replaced “discursive paper” with the text “In this experience report, we examine” at the background section of the abstract at lines 3-4.

- Science Editor Commented: The authors assess the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in a hospital surgery in a resource-poor Caribbean country, which could help other resource-poor countries around the world seek responses. This is an important and significant topic for clinical work. However, the title seems somewhat at variance with the essence of the article. The writing structure needs to be further organized and the writing language needs to be further refined. The discussion has certain limitations. Authors can summarize more and make more meaningful suggestions. The number of total references is few and a bit outdated, maybe a little more related references could also be cited. In addition, authors need to pay special attention to the self-citation rate of reference articles, because most of the references are published by the authors themselves.

The Science editors comments are noted. In response, we have changed the topic so that it is aligned with the content of the paper. We have refined the language used as suggested. We have increased the reference list to 20 in number and all are more recent citations. The self-citation rate has also been reduced to 7 of 20.

- Company editor-in-chief commented: I recommend the manuscript to be published in the World Journal of Meta-Analysis.

Thank you for these comments. No changes are required in response.

- Requirements for Article Highlights: If your manuscript is an Original Study (Basic Study or Clinical Study), Meta-Analysis, or Systemic Review, the “Article Highlights” section is required. Detailed writing requirements for the “Article Highlights” can be found in the Guidelines and Requirements for Manuscript Revision.

This article is not an original study (basic study or clinical study), meta-analysis or systemic review. The paper is an invited opinion piece. Therefore, according to these instructions an article highlight section is not required.

- Editor commented: Running title: Abbreviations are permitted. Also, please shorten the running title to no more than 6 words

The running title has been shortened to 6 words

- Editor commented: Key Words: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Key Words

The abbreviation is defined as “coronavirus (COVID) in the keywords

- Editor commented: Core Tip: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Core Tip.

All abbreviations have been removed from the core tip

- Editor commented: Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Main Text.

All abbreviations have been defined upon first appearance in the main text and these include: Coronavirus (COVID-19), Healthcare worker (HCW) and multidisciplinary team (MDT)

- Editor Commented: Figures: Abbreviations are not allowed in the Figure title. For the Figure Legend text, abbreviations are allowed but must be defined upon first appearance in the text

There are two figures in this paper and neither have abbreviations in the title or legend text.

- Abbreviations are not allowed in the Table title. For the Table itself, please verify all abbreviations used in tables are defined (separated by semicolons) directly underneath the table

There are no tables in this paper.

- Editor Commented: Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file, and submit as “74907-Figures.pptx” on the system. The figures should be uploaded to the file destination of “Image File”. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is ‘original’, the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022.

The decomposable figures have been included as requested.

- If your manuscript has supportive foundations, the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s) must be provided. Otherwise, we will delete the supportive foundations.

This manuscript has not grant support. Please remove this section.

- The editor asked that we upload the following files: (1) 74907-Answering Reviewers, (2) 74907-Audio Core Tip, (3) 74907-Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form, (4) 74907-Copyright License Agreement, (6) 74907-Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate, (8) 74907-Image File

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The disclosure of interest form has been completed and submitted