THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON PAIN MANAGEMENT THROUGHOUT EUROPE
Objective, Method, Results

The Objective of this study was to explore how COVID-19 has affected pain management services in Europe. The survey was conducted in April 2020.

Method: The European Pain Federation, EFIC© COVID-19 Task Force conducted an online survey, exploring adaptations to pain clinics across Europe caused by the pandemic.

The questions were multiple-choice and analysed via descriptive statistics.

Results: 427 individual respondents in total, with 356 from within the European continent.
More than a third of respondents were not able to conduct their pain clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic.
More than half of respondents experienced over a 50% reduction in volume of patients in their pain clinic due to COVID-19.

Almost a fifth of respondents experienced a 100% reduction in volume of patients in their pain clinic due to COVID-19.
Type of Consultation

- **4.2%**
  - Held consultations face-to-face with patients during COVID-19.

- **51.3%**
  - Held consultations virtually / by telephone with patients during COVID-19.

- **44.5%**
  - Held consultations both virtually and face-to-face with patients during COVID-19.
At the time of the survey (April 2020) the number of patients was still very small. 93.1% of respondents were only seeing less than 20% of COVID-19 survivors referred to their clinic with new pain symptoms.
More than half of pain clinic teams expressed some mild worry due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with almost a third reporting widespread anxiety due to the pandemic.
Whilst COVID-19 restrictions, including lockdowns, were in place, more than 85% of respondents expected there would be changes to their clinical practice.

52% of respondents were redeployed during the initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

89% of respondents expected changes to their clinical practice following removal of COVID-19 restrictions.
Information

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