

## Editorial

# Orthopedic experts responding to pandemic covid-19: between transmission alert and service management

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On 11 March 2020, World Health Organization (WHO) announced the status of a global pandemic for diseases caused by the corona virus infection 2019 or more popularly known as Covid-19. The term pandemic is defined as an outbreak of a disease that attacks many victims and takes place simultaneously in various countries so that all citizens of the world are potentially infected. This condition requires every hospital and clinic including medical personnel throughout the world to be able to prepare themselves to treat patients who experience the disease.

The first positive case of Covid-19 in Indonesia was confirmed on March 2, 2020, and within only two months, until May 2, 2020 there had been 10,843 positive cases of COVID-19 with 1,665 cured cases and 831 cases dead. The high number of death case makes Indonesia the highest death rate in Asia, which is 8-9%. This is caused by various factors, one of which is the gap in the global health system in Indonesia. The lack of PPE for medical personnel, many unreported cases, and ineffective government policy suspected as the causes of this condition.

Various speculations and predictions about when the end of the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia have been declared by various experts both from academia to professional from abroad. All of these predictions essentially convey that the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia will end soonest at the end of June 2020. Apart from the efforts made by the central and regional governments, in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, the reality that must be faced is the Indonesian nation from various groups and professions still have to face this situation for the next few months.

The Indonesian Doctors Association (IDI) has stated that the community is the front guard, while medical personnel are the last bastion in breaking the chain of Covid-19 distribution, even if it is only waiting, doctors must continue to provide health services when there are patients

who need help. This also applies to Orthopedics, although we do not directly contact or treat Covid-19 patients. The problems arise as an orthopedist, we do not know that the fracture or HNP patient being treated found to be a person with Covid-19 who is not showing symptoms, or the patient is lying when examined. As a result of this condition, until 2 May 2020, 25 doctors have died as a result of Covid-19, one of whom is our senior colleague.

## Orthopedic Amid Covid-19 Pandemic, Need to Worry?

As an orthopedics, we are required to continue to practice in Polyclinic and perform surgeries in the operating room to help treat patients. For this reason, several efforts are needed to prevent ourselves from becoming the next victims of Covid-19, including:

1. Obey the SOP of handling patients in the Hospital
2. Using personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriately
3. Maintaining good health and body condition.

## Is it Necessary to Postpone Operations and Reduce Services?

In certain conditions where an operative action needs to be performed, there are 2 models of approaches that can be applied while still considering safety for ourselves and patients:

1. For the Covid-19 referral hospital where no area restrictions on the general patient and Covid patient service zones, the surgery needs to be postponed, and so the service at the Polyclinic
2. For Covid-19 non referral hospitals, operations and services in the Polyclinic can still be performed as usual but need to implement a strict examination of Covid-19 preventive.

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Finally, as Orthopedics, we must be wise in managing and dealing with patients while maintaining the health and safety of ourselves and the community in anticipating the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. As the hope of all humanity throughout the world, hopefully this pandemic can soon pass.