

# The need for an educational campaign in Romania to encourage people with chronic hip or knee pain to make informed decisions when having surgery during COVID-19 pandemic

Orthopaedic organizations and orthopaedic departments in public and private hospitals wish to get patients back into the operating rooms for chronic hip and knee surgeries.

The countries around the world are striving to implement and develop such campaigns to help both the people who need such surgeries and the orthopaedic organizations and orthopaedic departments in public and private hospitals, during the COVID-19 pandemic that seems to limit everybody and everything at present and seems to take longer than expected.

A company based in U.S.A., which also has a subsidiary in Romania, has launched an educational campaign, in an attempt to help people with chronic hip or knee problems undergo surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The need for such a campaign is also needed in Romania and should be based on a survey that should reveal why the surgery candidates have postponed or canceled surgery due to the fear of being infected with the novel coronavirus.

It is a fact that COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty and doubt around undergoing these procedures or if they could be postponed or canceled until the pandemic disappeared or cooled down. However, such actions of postponing or cancelling surgeries could be disastrous for people who really need them and could also have a negative effect on their quality of life.

The goal of this campaign should be to encourage people have a good communication with their doctors about the surgery, about potential risks and get the support and care they need to address their pain in a safe and confident manner.

The survey should also reveal how many people underwent hip or knee surgery during and before the pandemic and how many of them felt safe and how many felt they assumed a risk undergoing it.

Moreover, the survey should also reveal the duration, reason and implications of postponing or cancelling the surgery.

Nevertheless, the survey should also highlight the awareness degree of the digital options regarding the support of post-operative recovery, before the surgery was canceled or postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. Virtual communications tools facilitate a good communication with the surgeon.

In conclusion, the implementation of such an educational campaign could really have a positive effect on people with chronic hip or knee problems and orthopaedic organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The orthopaedic community should evolve and adapt to a state that could perpetuate in the next years, digital support for preoperative and postoperative care should be a standard of care.

**Editor in Chief,  
Prof. Cătălin Cîrstoiu, MD, PhD,**