

June 2022

## Racial Disparities in Rescheduling Elective Surgeries Following COVID-19

Anna H. Kang

Wayne State University School of Medicine, [anna.kang@med.wayne.edu](mailto:anna.kang@med.wayne.edu)

Benjamin M. Sims

Wayne State University School of Medicine, [benjamin.sims@wayne.edu](mailto:benjamin.sims@wayne.edu)

Charles S. Day

Henry Ford Health System, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, [cday9@hfhs.org](mailto:cday9@hfhs.org)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/som\\_srs](https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/som_srs)

 Part of the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Kang, Anna H.; Sims, Benjamin M.; and Day, Charles S., "Racial Disparities in Rescheduling Elective Surgeries Following COVID-19" (2022). *Medical Student Research Symposium*. 162.  
[https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/som\\_srs/162](https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/som_srs/162)

This Research Abstract is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Medicine at DigitalCommons@WayneState. It has been accepted for inclusion in Medical Student Research Symposium by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@WayneState.

# **Racial Disparities in Rescheduling Elective Surgeries Following COVID-19**

Anna H. Kang<sup>1</sup>, Benjamin M. Sims<sup>1</sup>, Charles S. Day, M.D., M.B.A.<sup>2</sup>

1) Wayne State University School of Medicine 2) Henry Ford Health System

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, healthcare systems were mandated to cancel elective procedures as a public health safety measure. This study aimed to evaluate subsequent rescheduling in relation to patients' interpreted risks of receiving care and reported discrepancies of the COVID-19 pandemic's direct impacts on minority populations.

## **METHODS:**

An orthopedic surgery research consortium developed a clinical survey to assess the impact of elective surgery cancellations on patients. Topics included demographics, cancellation sentiments, and rescheduling preferences ("ASAP", "within 3 months", "6 months", "12 months", or "do not wish to reschedule"). The survey was administered for surgeries cancelled between March 15<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Utilizing June 1<sup>st</sup> as the date elective procedures resumed, completed surgeries were categorized as "within stated preferences" or "late". Data were analyzed for possible predictors of having surgery within preferences using chi-square and multivariable logistic regressions ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).

## **RESULTS & CONCLUSION:**

Of the 1703 patients with surgery cancellations, 1327 (77.9%) completed the survey. Rescheduled surgery data were obtained for 1297 patients – 97.7% of survey participants. Sample demographics included 64.6% females, 70.9% Caucasians, and a mean age of 59.3. The majority (65.9%) preferred to have surgeries rescheduled ASAP, and the majority (66.0%) underwent surgery within their stated preference. However, Caucasian patients were significantly (1.67x) more likely to have surgery within stated preferences than Black patients ( $p<0.001$ ). No other variables were significant independent predictors of having surgery within stated preferences, presenting a discrepancy that encourages further investigation as elective surgeries continue to be rescheduled following resumption across the country.