



**PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL
SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.**



**PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR GYNECOLOGIC ENDOSCOPY
FOUNDATION, INC.**

PSGE Statement on Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgeries (MIGS) during the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Philippines. March 30, 2020.

The PSGE supports the suspension of elective surgeries during this time upon review of the available literature and current guidelines.

However, there may be occasions when surgery may be deemed urgent and cannot be delayed and the following recommendations must be considered in decision making. These are subject to change as new data become available.

1. All MIGS (laparoscopy and hysteroscopy) are not recommended as the FIRST choice of surgical route at this time for the following reasons:
 - a. Routine COVID -19 Testing as part of the pre-op assessment of the patient is not feasible.
 - b. There is a potential for viral aerosolization with CO₂ use to achieve pneumoperitoneum.
 - c. COVID 19 Virus shedding in the peritoneum and female reproductive tract are still unknown.
 - d. Limited supply of the Proper Protective Equipment (PPE) for the surgical team (surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and allied medical profession). The PPE is important to prevent virus transmission which occurs through inhalation of infected droplets.

2. For urgent cases, MIGS may be done as long as:
 - a. The institution is capable of providing the full PPE for the surgical team.
 - b. All patients undergo the necessary pre-operative assessment to rule out COVID-19.
 - c. Proper measures are taken to contain the CO₂ release during procedures.
 - d. The use of non-electrosurgical/ultrasonic measures for hemostasis is maximized.
 - e. Disposable equipment is used.

References:

1. WHO Interim Guidance: Rational Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for coronavirus disease (COVID-19). 19 March 2020.
2. European Society for Gynecologic Endoscopy (ESGE) Recommendations on Gynaecological Laparoscopic Surgery during the COVID-19 Outbreak. Issued March 2020.
3. Joint Society Statement on Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Durin the COVID-19 Pandemic. Issued on March 27, 2020 by the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL).
4. American College of Surgeons. COVID 19: Elective Case Triage Guidelines for Surgical Care - Gynecology. Issued on March 24, 2020.
5. Joint RCOG, BSGE and BGCS guidance for the management of abnormal uterine bleeding in the evolving Coronavirus (COVID- 19) pandemic.