

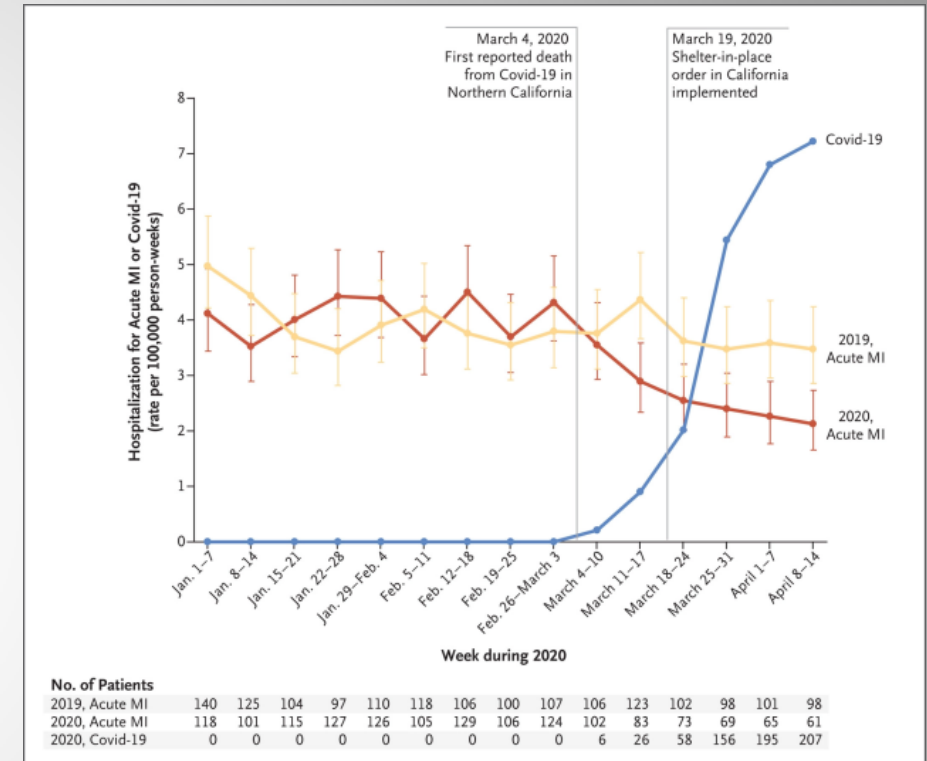
How did COVID-19 impact on the care of patients with aortic disease

PD Dr Roman Gottardi, MBA, FECTS
University Heart Center Freiburg • Bad Krozingen
Department of Cardiovascular Surgery



Background

- During the initial wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, a substantial decrease in the admission rates of patients with acute coronary syndromes (ACS) could be observed
- With a sharp decline in the number of emergency coronary procedures performed in Europe and the USA
- In several European countries, the nationwide lockdown severely restricted movement, which might have contributed to this phenomenon
- **The aim of this study was to evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on acute and elective aortic procedures**



Methods

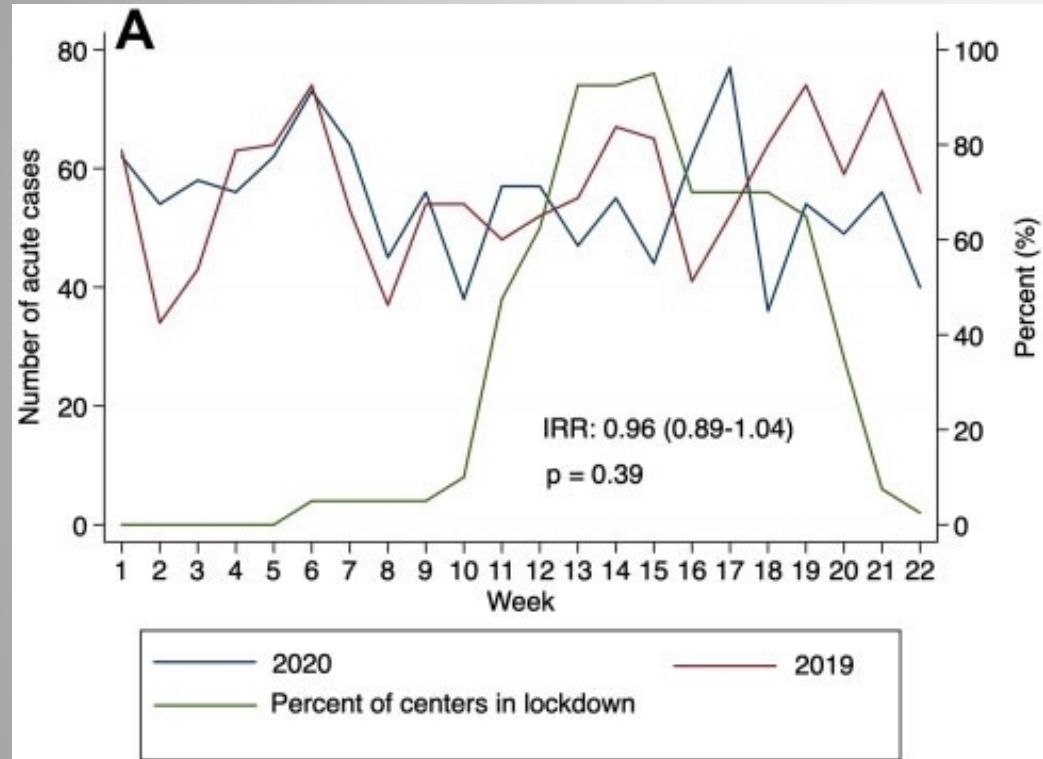
- A multi-centric study was conducted to investigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on admissions for acute and chronic aortic disease
- 40 departments shared their data on acute and elective thoracic and abdominal aortic procedures between January and May 2020 and January and May 2019 in Europe, Asia and the USA.
- Only the number of admissions for acute and chronic aortic conditions, further divided into thoracic and abdominal procedures, without any patient-related information was collected.
- In addition delay from onset of symptoms to referral were compared



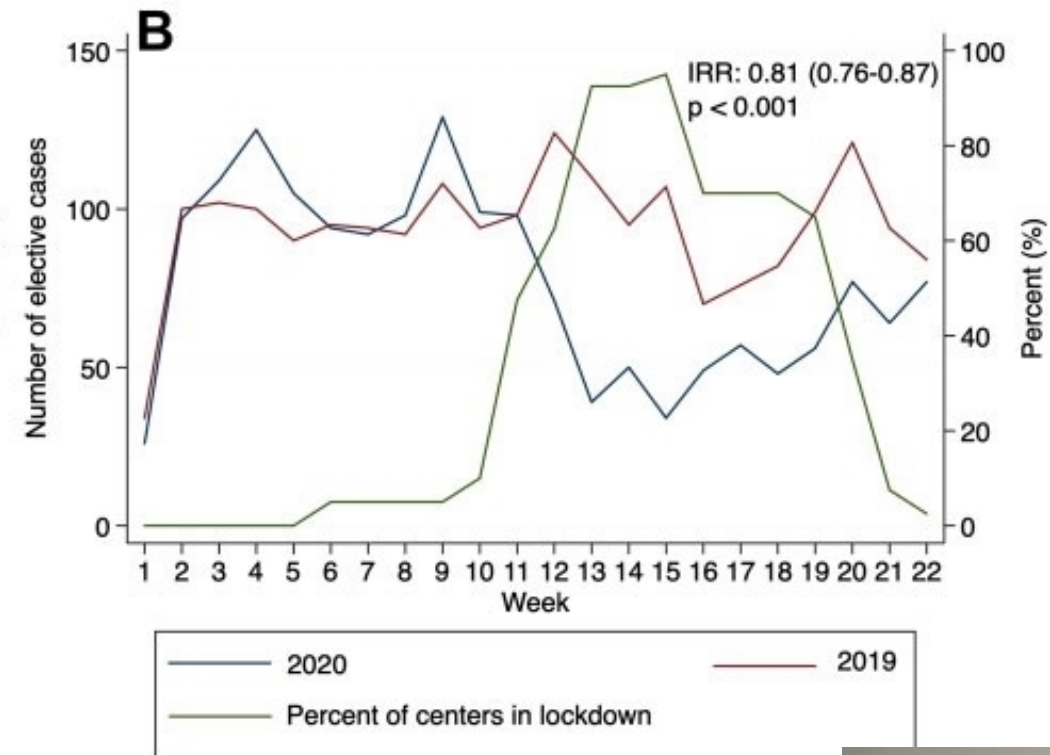
Results

Acute and elective aortic cases in Europe, Asia, the USA

Acute aortic cases



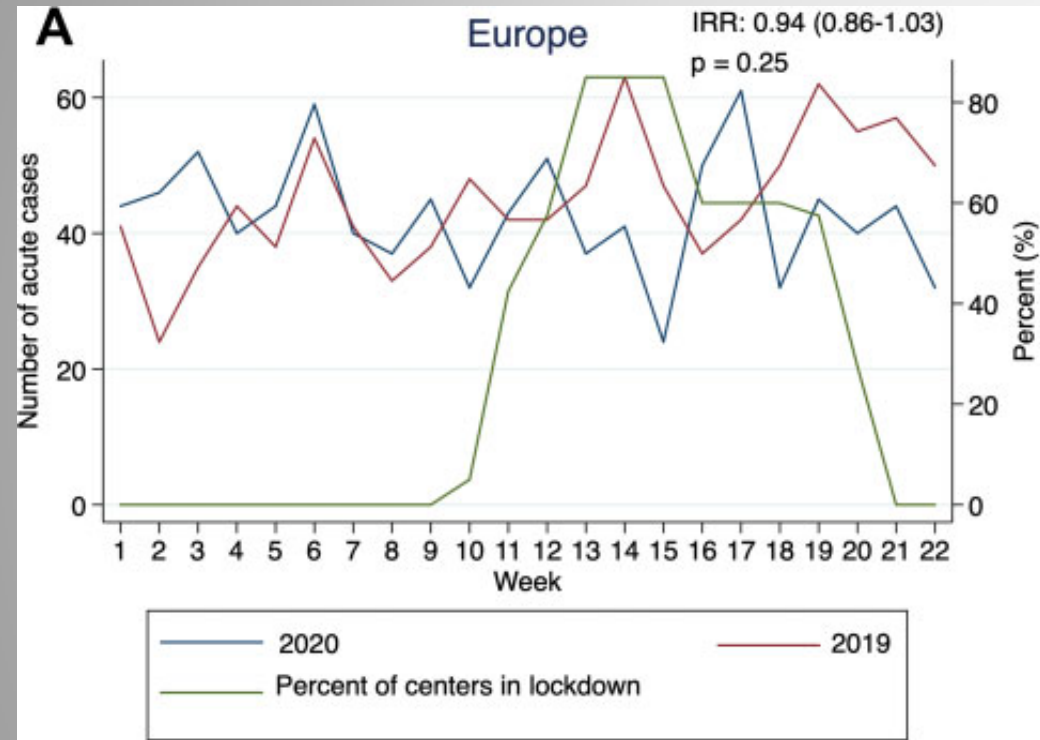
Elective aortic cases



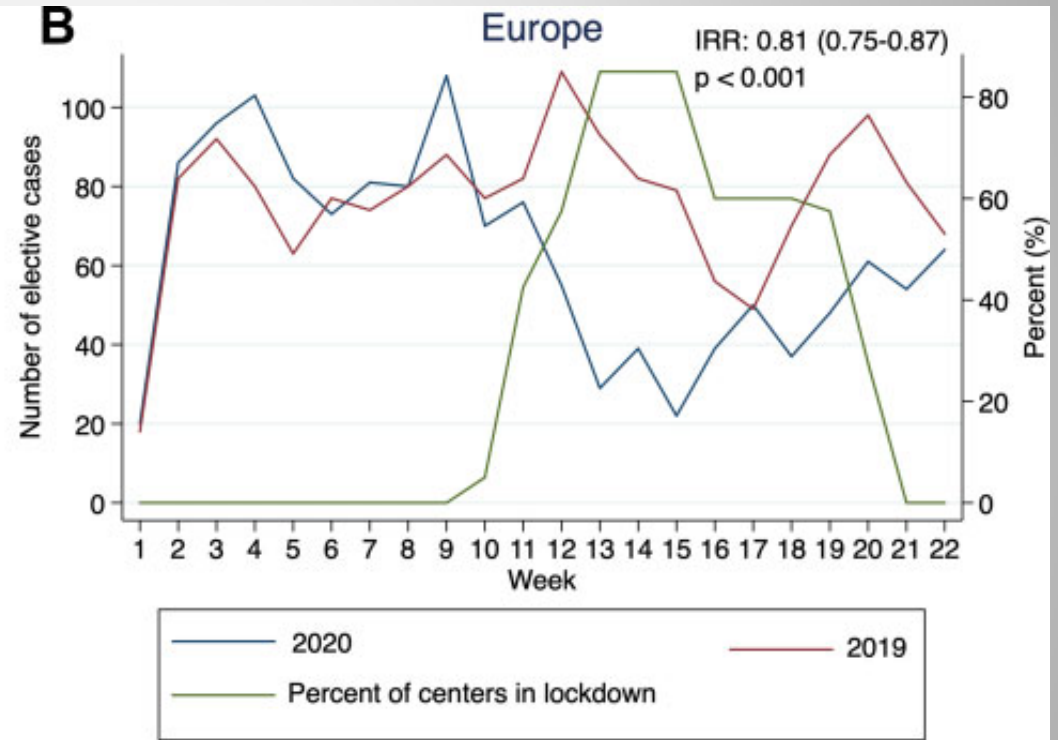
Results

Acute and elective aortic cases in Europe

Acute aortic cases



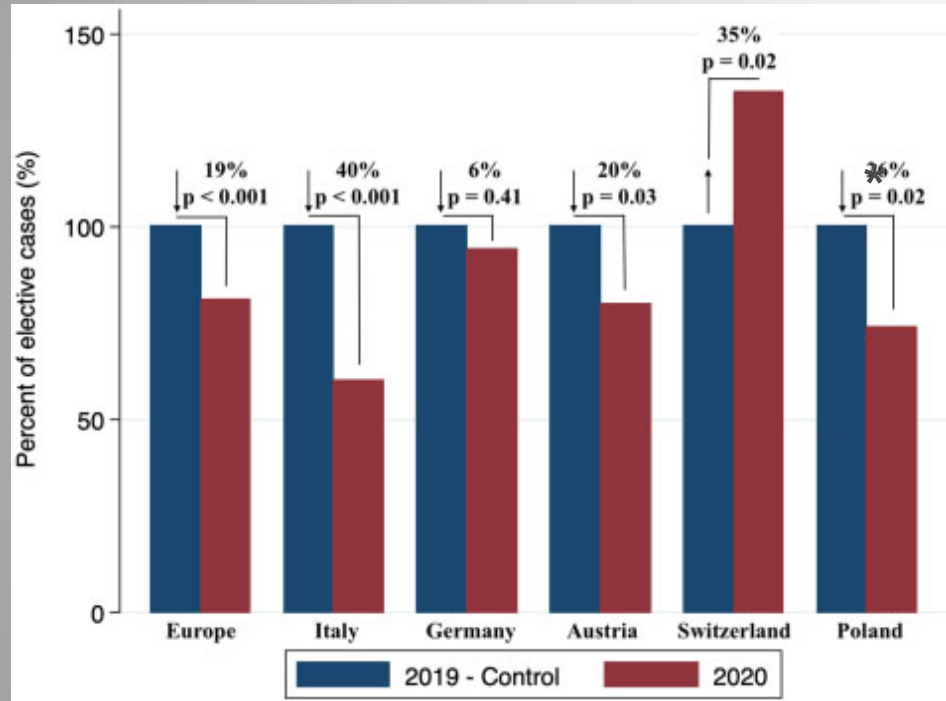
Elective aortic cases



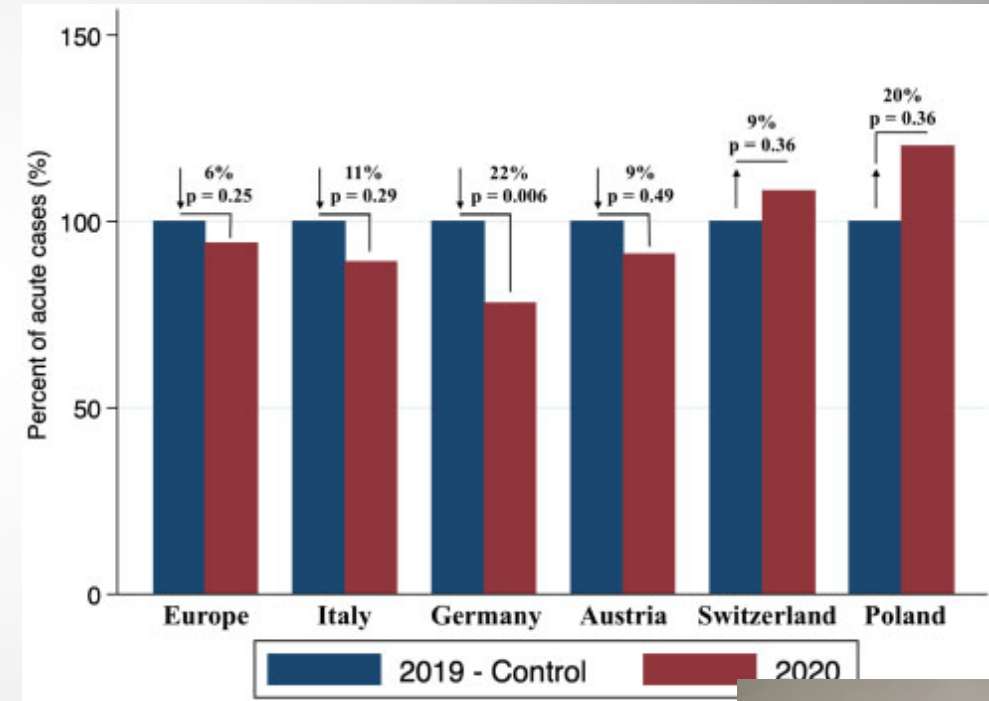
Results

Changes per country in Europe

Elective aortic cases



Acute aortic cases

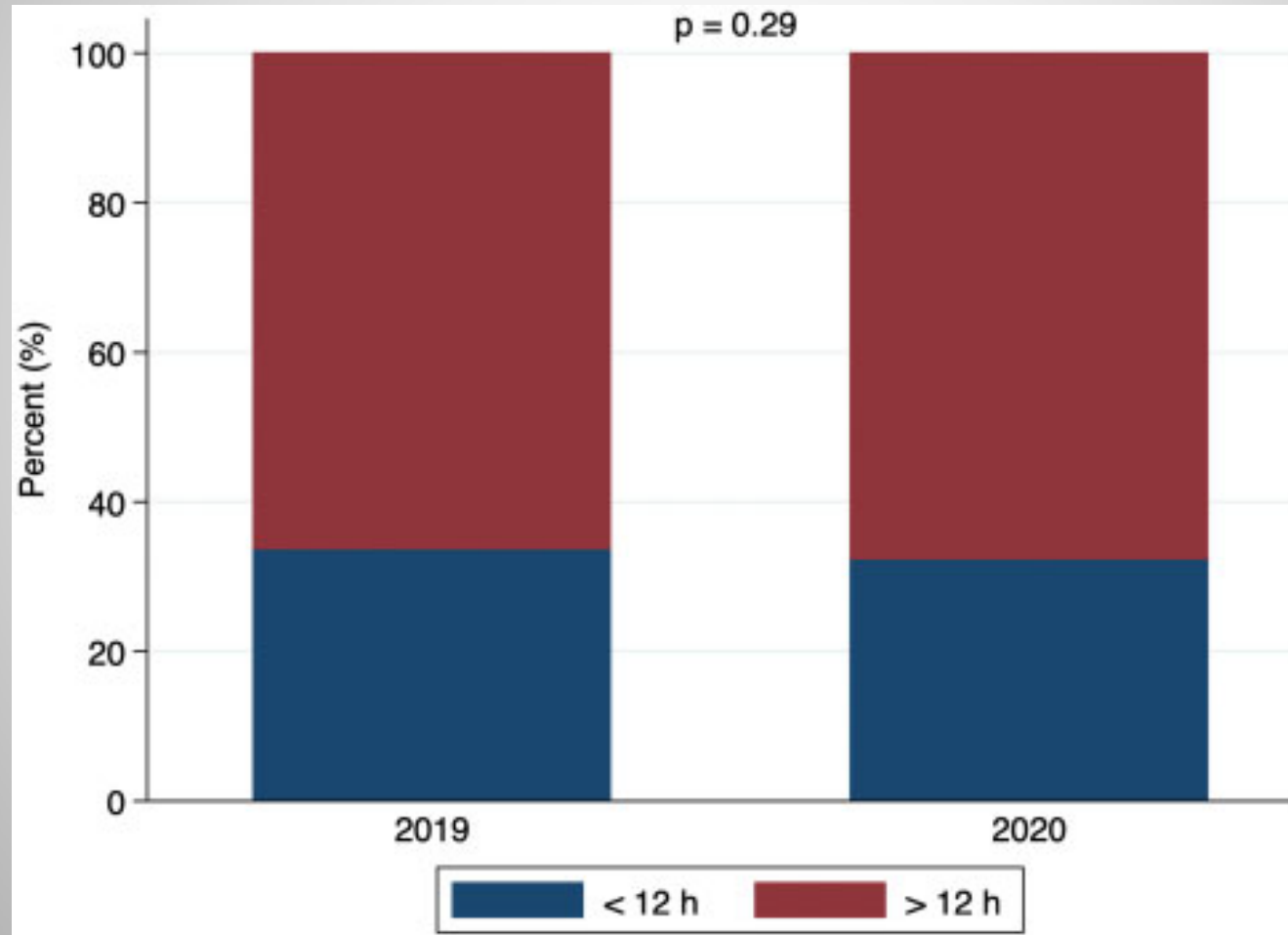


* one department of vascular surgery was newly established in Switzerland in 2020



Results

Time from onset of symptoms to referral



Conclusion

- There was **no change** in the number of procedures for **acute thoracic and abdominal aortic pathologies** during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Due to the provision of intensive care capacity for potential COVID-19 patients, a **decrease in elective thoracic and abdominal procedures has been observed**
- The **burden of aortic pain seems to exceed the reluctance to seek medical care** which is additionally reflected in an **unchanged time interval between onset of symptoms and referral**
- **The need for acute aortic care is unchanged in a pandemic and resources need to be secured**



Thank you very much for your attention!



roman.gottardi@uniklinik-freiburg.de

