



GYNECOLOGY ♦ INFERTILITY
ENDOSCOPIC & ROBOTIC SURGERY

MICHAEL D. RANDELL, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

Diplomate, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

March 15, 2020

**Re: Temporary Closing of Our Practice and
Cancellation of Elective Procedures**

Dear Patients and Colleagues:

I am writing to advise our patients and colleagues that **the Practice will close for two weeks beginning Tuesday, March 17**. In addition, **all elective procedures and surgeries scheduled during this time will be postponed**.

The COVID-19 pandemic is unlike anything we have experienced in our lifetime. The Federal Government has declared coronavirus a national emergency. On March 13, 2020, The American College of Surgeons (ACS) published the following recommendations:

- Each hospital, health system, and surgeon should thoughtfully review all scheduled elective procedures with a plan to minimize, postpone, or cancel electively scheduled operations, endoscopies, or other invasive procedures until we have passed the predicted inflection point in the exposure graph and can be confident that our health care infrastructure can support a potentially rapid and overwhelming uptick in critical patient care needs.
- Immediately minimize use of essential items needed to care for patients, including but not limited to, ICU beds, personal protective equipment, terminal cleaning supplies, and ventilators. There are many asymptomatic patients who are, nevertheless, shedding virus and are unwittingly exposing other inpatients, outpatients, and health care providers to the risk of contracting COVID-19.

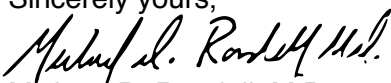
Similarly, the U.S Surgeon General urged a widespread halt of hospital elective procedures amid mounting concern that the health system doesn't have enough beds to manage a potential surge of coronavirus patients.

Starting, **Monday, March 16, Emory Healthcare will postpone all elective procedures for two weeks**, followed by week-to-week reassessment. Starting Tuesday, March 17, Emory Healthcare will be postponing all outpatient elective clinic visits. Emory Healthcare is recommending that the independent physician community, which includes our Practice, also consider postponing all elective visits, in an all-out effort to flatten the transmission curve. We intend to comply with this recommendation and **will be closing the office beginning Tuesday, March 17**.

During this time, the Practice and I will monitor phone messages, instant messaging via or website, texts, faxes, and U.S. mail. As always, if you have a medical emergency, please call 911 or go to the closest emergency room. We will update our Facebook page and use other online sites to communicate with our patients and colleagues concerning when elective procedures or outpatient office visits will resume.

We want to be part of the solution and are committed to keeping our patients safe. We encourage everyone to practice "social distancing" during this time.

Sincerely yours,


Michael D. Randell, M.D.