



# WHAT IF YOU DISCOVERED THAT EVEN YOUR SURGEON'S MASK DOES NOT PROTECT YOU FROM INFECTION?

By: Reinfocovid Collective

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## STOP

- Mr Veran has repeatedly confirmed that masks are unnecessary
- The surgeons' mask does not protect you from post-operative infections.
- The mask only protects the surgeons from blood and other fluids.

It has not escaped anyone's attention that the polemic on the usefulness of masks has been strong for months. There are two opposing camps.

- The first one, which considers, as it has for 100 years, that the mask has no use in the general population and does not wish to wear one.
- The second, which considers the mask to be evidence, whereas before 2020 they never wore one.

There are many arguments to show the uselessness of masks to contain contamination, but those of our previous Minister of Health are probably the best.



Before the French senators on 24 September 2020, Mr Veran

- Recalls that "studies on masks show that it doesn't work"[1].
- Asserts, on the same basis, on the same day (24/9/20), that if he had had "1 billion "If the government had not issued masks in April 2020, it would not have given them to the population. Because there is no scientific justification. [g)
- Reaffirms, on France info, in March 2022, that masks, including FFP2, do not change the evolution of the epidemic. [;11

At this point in the discussion, when it comes to defending masks **in terms of** their effectiveness in reducing microbial contamination, the argument often given, as a last resort, is that the mask is a good idea.

recourse, is as follows:

***"Surgeons wear them!"***

***This is proof that it is effective and useful against Jes infections.***

One would naturally think that this is the case, that they protect patients from microbial contamination responsible for post-operative infections. And that it is therefore essential that the surgical team (surgeons, nurses, anaesthetists) wear them to prevent the postillions, the microbes of the surgical team from falling on the operating site and contaminating the patient.

**But this is not the case!**

**The mask has no effect on post-operative nosocomial infections.**

The mask is unable to reduce patient infections in the operating theatre and this has been known for decades.

When people questioned the legitimacy of masks in operating theatres, they began by assessing the amount of bacteria present in the air in the operating theatres according to the presence or absence of a mask.

The protocol was simple: **at** the end of each day, measurements of the number of bacteria present in the air of the blocks were taken and related to the presence of masks or not.

One of the first studies dates from 1975. It involved 8 blocks: the mask showed no effect. [1]

2001, same result. [S]



Then, the researchers turned to the clinic with the evaluation of the number of post-operative infections.

Here too the protocol is very simple. All you have to do is count the number of infections that occurred during surgery with and without masks, calculate the rate and compare them.

A study of this type was carried out in 1991 for 115 weeks on 3088 operations, half without masks and half with masks. [§]

The results showed 73 infections in masked surgeries and only 55 unmasked surgeries, giving a rate of 4.7% and 3.5% respectively

	Interventions	Infections	
<b>With</b>	1537	73	<b>4,7%</b>
<b>Without</b>	1551	55	<b>3,5%</b>

The conclusion is easy to give: the use of masks in surgery has no interest, no protective effect for the patients.

In 2010, another such study was done on obstetric, gynaecological, general, orthopaedic, breast and urological surgeries performed on 827 patients. [Z]

Again, all staff wore masks in half of the surgeries, and none of the staff wore masks in the other half of the surgeries.

The results showed post-operative infections in 11.5% of patients in the masked group and only 9.0% in the unmasked group.

The conclusion is easy to give: the use of masks in surgery has no interest, no protective effect for the patients.

Obviously other studies of the same type have been done over the years. **The results are always the same: the mask does not reduce the contamination of patients**

- 1981, 6 months without masks did not bring more postoperative infections. [§]
- 1991, the mask is not useful. [li]
- 2001, a meta-analysis concludes that masks are useless (worse, in fact). [1.Q]



- 2009, there was no significant difference in the incidence of postoperative wound infections. In fact, there was even a significant decrease in the infection rate ( $p < 0.05$ ). [11]
- 2010, the mask is really not useful for the team around the surgeon. [.11.]
- 2014, Cochrane concludes on 3 trials (2113 participants): no difference in infection rates between the masked and unmasked groups. [L1]
- 2014, 4000 patients, no difference. [H]
- 2015, a meta-analysis of 2106 participants showed a lack of substantial evidence to support claims that face masks protect the patient or surgeon from infectious contamination. [15]

There are others that give the same results.

To **avoid confirmation bias**, the tendency **to** look for information that confirms one's way of thinking, and **to** ignore anything that might contradict it.

Although we have searched hard, we have not been **able to find any studies that show a benefit of the mask in reducing post-operative iatrogenic infections.**

## So why do surgeons wear masks?

Out of habit and a conviction to protect patients. Not by analysis of the scientific data produced on this subject.

It should be noted, however, that **the wearing of a mask by the caregivers** is not useless, since it **protects them from possible splashes of liquids and biological material coming from the patient.**

In fact, all agencies that have issued general guidelines recommend that masks be worn when there is a risk of splashing blood or other biological fluids. [1.§]

It is therefore inaccurate to believe that masks reduce contamination during surgical or medical procedures.

Despite the evidence, this belief remains entrenched in the medical community.



By extension, it is also necessary to accept that the mask, which has been compulsory for almost two years, is of no use, as the Minister of Health, **Mr Veran**, has said (after having made it compulsory...).

## REFERENCES

- [1] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xn5oK8ld6HY&feature=youtu.be&t=11128>
- [2] <https://youtu.be/hqjfm4huWoQ?t=205>
- [3] [https://www.francetvinfo.fr/replay-radio/8h30-fauvelle-dely/levee-des-restrictions-covid-19-home-of-the-malays-ukrainians-retirement-the-8:30-france-info-of-olivier-veran\\_4988409.html](https://www.francetvinfo.fr/replay-radio/8h30-fauvelle-dely/levee-des-restrictions-covid-19-home-of-the-malays-ukrainians-retirement-the-8:30-france-info-of-olivier-veran_4988409.html) a 2 minutes
- [4] <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/1157412/>
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- [16] [https://www.chudequebec.ca/getmedia/fe2f9c07-e00b-41ce-90f9-a63970713367/NI\\_06\\_09\\_tenu\\_vest\\_VF.aspx](https://www.chudequebec.ca/getmedia/fe2f9c07-e00b-41ce-90f9-a63970713367/NI_06_09_tenu_vest_VF.aspx)

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