



The use of OT medical devices in Belgium during the COVID 19 crisis



Belgian situation in OT

- BBOT is the only national professional association!
- 170 members/companies in P & O, mobility and Orthopaedic shoes.
- 2500 employees



Turnover 2019 (figures public health)

orthotics	105.140.410
prosthetics	37.085.897
orthopaedic shoes	36.278.221
mobility	99.613.231
"klein orthopädie"	56.461.316
total	334.579.075,42

+ 10 % insurance companies, and other paying organisms = *approximately € 370.000.000*



Situation Covid 19

Federal decision

- Drastic Lockdown
- March 18 → May 5 2020 for all not essential activities companies / schools/ services ... were closed!
- OT activities could go on for “essential therapeutical” services or “to garanty the continuity of therapy!”



Situation Covid 19



OT medical devices

- Hospital: urgencies intensiv care (neck braces, ankle braces ...) , and post-op indications (knee braces, hip braces...!)
- Ambulant patients : stoma care
- Maintenance and urgent repair of OT Medical devices.

P & O & Osh.

Total = only 10 % of normal activity



Situation Covid 19



Practices : Stop !

- Classical hospital consultations in orthopaedics
(no insoles, no braces ... any more)
- No acces to pediatric and geriatric institutions
= no custom made orthotics, seatings...
= no mobility aids anymore
- Patients were afraid to come to our (work)shops!



Reaction BBOT

We developed an “ OT guide” on top of the national generic guide.

The classical measures!

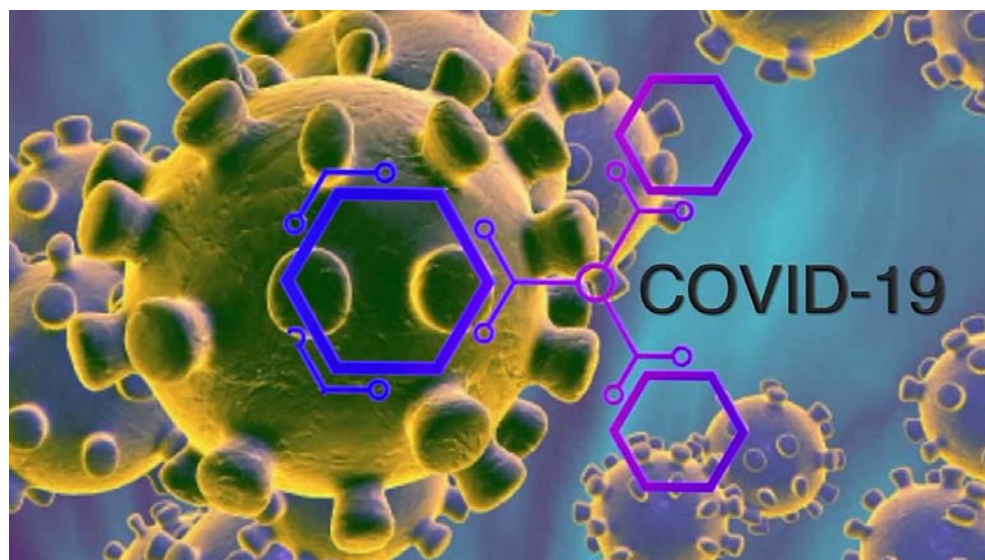




Reaction BBOT

“OT guide” on top of the national generic guide.

How to restart in safe conditions in OT!





Reaction BBOT

How to restart in safe conditions.

- Guidelines **How to** use the personal protective equipment !

- **What to** use in what circumstances !





Reaction BBOT

- **How to** organise and transform the workshops, the casting rooms, consultation rooms...
- **How to** organise the flow of the OT medical devices within the company avoiding contamination risks!



Reaction BBOT

- **How to** approach the staff
(mental strain, fear...).
- **How to** proceed in case of contamination
(staff or patients)



Reaction BBOT

- **How to** treat OT Medical devices
(quarantine period : 90 h) after contact with the
patient in pediatric en geriatric institutions
(respect local conditions!)



Economic consequences

In the first period :

- 2 -3 months loss of 90 % of turnover
- severe temporary unemployment

Afterwards :

- lack of efficiency in the organisation
- extra time per patient
- complex organisation “intra and extra muros”
- logistic problems with subcontractors (e.g.manufacturing of lasts for orthopaedic shoes)
- Increase in staff sickness & shortage of rapid tests



Economic support

Federal en regional economic interventions

- Unemployment compensation
- Protective equipment



Legal support

Federal “health” regulation interventions

- More flexibility about medical (virtual) consultations
- Longer validity of medical prescriptions, delivery times...



Conclusion

- Although OT activities could officially go on, ... we didn't have access to our main target patient audiences.
- Protective equipment was hardly available in the beginning!
- The stress on our human resources was considerable
- Human solidarity within the OT branch and within the “care landscape” was great !



conclusion

- Communication was essential
- We get rapidly familiar with virtual meetings on different levels
 - Workgroups with the federal and regional authorities
 - BBOT Board (every two weeks) sondages to feel how the OT Branch was reacting .
 - Internal workgroups
- We send out practically daily info flashes to or members about legal, economical and practical issues



conclusion



Opportunities and future actions!

- Political platform for more financial resources for the health professions.
- Strategic stock of protective equipment.
- Streamlined communication based on a cadastre from the health professionals!
- Need of international guidelines



BBOT / UPBTO

Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit!