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# COVID-19 and Cancer Care

Jessica MacIntyre, ARPN
Executive Director, Clinical Operations





# **Objectives**

- Overview of COVID-19 and current statistics
- Understand impact on cancer care
- Discuss future implications and considerations



## **About Coronaviruses**

5 June 1965

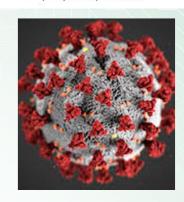
BRITISH
MEDICAL JOURNAL

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#### Cultivation of a Novel Type of Common-cold Virus in Organ Cultures

D. A. J. TYRRELL,\* M.D., F.R.C.P.; M. L. BYNOE,\* M.B., D.T.M.&H., D.OBST.R.C.O.G.

- First identified in 1966 by Tyrell and Bynoe
- Coronaviruses (CoVs) are positive single stranded RNA viruses that can infect both human and animals.
- Spherical morphology with core shell and glycoprotein projections from their envelope, appear "crown-like"
- Some CoVs can be self-limiting while others can result in increased mortality.
  - > SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
  - > SARS-CoV
  - > MERS-CoV





## **About COVID-19**

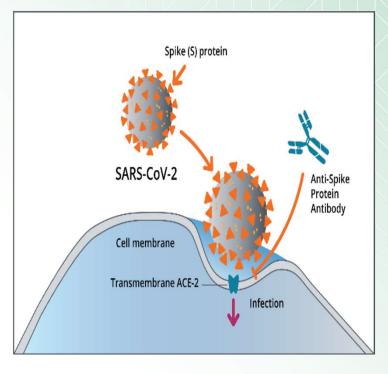
- First reported in Wuhan, China in December 2019
- Proposed bats were the reservoir for coronavirus
- The severity of the disease can range from asymptomatic disease to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
- No potential cure has been reported
- Variety of clinical trials: treatment options and vaccines
- Remdesivir and bamlanvimab only FDA approved treatments for COVID-19.
- Dexamethasone and convalescent plasma





## **About COVID-19**

- Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) common binding site:
   2002-2003 SARS epidemic and SARS-CoV2.
- Interaction with renin angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS) through ACE2 is a key factor for infectivity.
- ACE2 expressed in broadly in numerous tissues
  - -Lung alveolar epithelial cells are primary targets
  - -GI Tract, Kidneys, and Blood vessels
- Variability symptoms can be attributed to either configuration or number of ACE-2 transmural proteins in the body.
- ACEI or ARBs?





## **Statistics**



### Cases being tracked since January 21, 2020

Total cases: 10,846.373

Deaths: 244,810

3,278 per 100,000 cases

\*As of 11/15/20

## **Cancer patients**

- Higher risk due to immunocompromised state
- Data from China 3.5 times risk of requiring mechanical ventilation or ICU admission.
- Fatality rate in cancer patients was 28.6% vs. 2.3% for all COVID-19 patients



# Signs and Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Dyspnea
- Headaches
- Conjunctivitis
- Fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Loss of taste or smell
- Nausea or vomiting
- Nasal Congestion
- Myalgias
- Chills





## **Risk Factors for Cancer Patients**

- Age
- Male sex
- Former smoking status
- Number of comorbidities
- ECOG PS 2 or higher
- Active cancer with progressive disease
- High amount of contact with healthcare providers
- Lymphopenia (poor prognostic factor)
- Increase mortality with azithromycin and hydroxychloroguine

# Clinical impact of COVID-19 on patients with cancer (CCC19): $\rightarrow \mathcal{M}^{\uparrow}$ a cohort study

Nicole M Kuderer\*, Toni K Choueiri\*, Dimpy P Shah\*, Yu Shyr\*, Samuel M Rubinstein, Donna R Rivera, Sanjay Shete, Chih-Yuan Hsu,
Aakash Desai, Gilberto de Lima Lopes Jr, Petros Grivas, Corrie A Painter, Solange Peters, Michael A Thompson, Ziad Bakouny, Gerald Batist,
Tanios Bekaii-Saab, Mehmet A Bilen, Nathaniel Bouganim, Mateo Bover Larroya, Daniel Castellano, Salvatore A Del Prete, Deborah B Doroshow,
Pamela C Egan, Arielle Elkrief, Dimitrios Farmakiotis, Daniel Flora, Matthew D Galsky, Michael J Glover, Elizabeth A Griffiths, Anthony P Gulati,
Shilpa Gupta, Navid Hafez, Thorvardur R Halfdanarson, Jessica E Hawley, Emily Hsu, Anup Kasi, Ali R Khaki, Christopher A Lemmon, Colleen Lewis,
Barbara Logan, Tyler Masters, Rana R McKay, Ruben A Mesa, Alicia K Morgans, Mary F Mulcahy, Orestis A Panagiotou, Prakash Peddi,
Nathan A Pennell, Kerry Reynolds, Lane R Rosen, Rachel Rosovsky, Mary Salazar, Andrew Schmidt, Sumit A Shah, Justin A Shaya, John Steinharter,
Keith E Stockerl-Goldstein, Suki Subbiah, Donald C Vinh, Firas H Wehbe, Lisa B Weissmann, Julie Tsu-Yu Wu, Elizabeth Wulff-Burchfield,
Zhuoer Xie, Albert Yeh, Peter P Yu, Alice Y Zhou, Leyre Zubiri, Sanjay Mishra, Gary H Lyman\*, Brian I Rini\*, Jeremy L Warner\*, on behalf of
the COVID-19 and Cancer Consortium



# How do we weigh benefit vs. risk?



# **Patient Testing Guidelines**

#### Resources

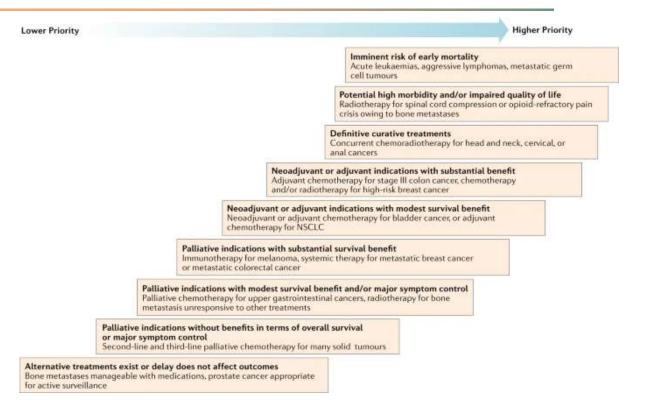
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)
- American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
- European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO)
- American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)

#### Prioritize

Low->Medium->High



# Patient Testing Guidelines





## University of Miami Experience



Special Article

# A How-to Guide to Building a Robust SARS-CoV-2 Testing Program at a University-Based Health System

Academic Pathology: Volume 7 DOI: 10.1177/2374289520958200 journals.sagepub.com/home/apc © The Author(s) 2020

SAGE

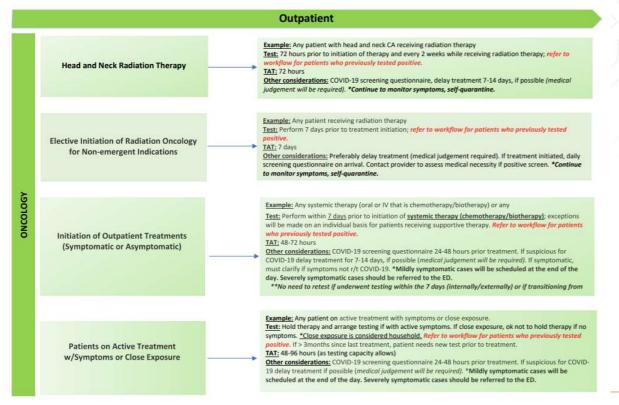
Stephen D. Nimer, MD<sup>1,2</sup>, Jennifer Chapman, MD<sup>2,3</sup>, Lisa Reidy, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Alvaro Alencar, MD<sup>1,2</sup>, YanYun Wu, MD, PhD<sup>2,3</sup>, Sion Williams, PhD<sup>2,4</sup>, Lazara Pagan, MSN<sup>2</sup>, Lauren Gjolaj, MBA<sup>2</sup>, Jessica MacIntyre, MSN<sup>2</sup>, Melissa Triana, MBA<sup>2</sup>, Barbara Vance, PhD<sup>2</sup>, David Andrews, MD<sup>3</sup>, Yao-Shan Fan, MD, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Yi Zhou, MD, PhD<sup>2,3</sup>, Octavio Martinez, MD<sup>3</sup>, Monica Garcia-Buitrago, MD<sup>2,3</sup>, Carolyn Cray, PhD<sup>3</sup>, Mustafa Tekin, MD<sup>5</sup>, Jacob L. McCauley, PhD<sup>5</sup>, Philip Ruiz, MD, PhD<sup>6</sup>, Paola Pagan, MBA<sup>3</sup>, Walter Lamar, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Maritza Alencar, DNP<sup>2</sup>, Daniel Bilbao, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Silvia Prieto, MBA<sup>3</sup>, Maritza Polania, MBA<sup>3</sup>, Maritza Suarez, MD<sup>1</sup>, Melissa Lujardo, BSIE<sup>3</sup>, Gloria Campos, MSIE<sup>3</sup>, Michele Morris, MD<sup>1</sup>, Bhavarth Shukla, MD<sup>1</sup>, Alberto Caban-Martinez, PhD, DO<sup>2,7</sup>, Erin Kobetz, PhD<sup>1,2,7</sup>, Dipen J. Parekh, MD<sup>2,8</sup>, and Merce Jorda, MD, PhD, MBA<sup>2,3</sup>



## **Patient Testing Guidelines**



#### **OUTPATIENT AND INPATIENT CRITERIA FOR COVID-19 TESTING**





Hanna, T., et. al. (2020). Nature Reviews, Clinical Oncology. Cancer, COVID19 Precautionary Principle: prioritizing treatment during global pandemic.

# How has COVID-19 changed cancer care?



## **ASCO Statement**

Cancer Screening: Can/should members of the community continue recommended cancer screening activities (e.g. screening mammography)?

To conserve health system resources and reduce patient contact with health care facilities, ASCO recommends that cancer screening procedures that require clinic/center visits such as screening mammograms and colonoscopy be postponed for the time being. Clinical care teams are advised to carefully weigh the risks and benefits of pursuing elective procedures, such as screening procedures, at this time.



# Implications for cancer care

#### Screenings

- American Association of Cancer Research (AACR)
  - EMR records from 29 states, screening for breast, colon, and cervical decreased by 85%.
- Delays in cancer screening will lead to an additional 10,000 deaths from breast and colorectal cancer over the next decade.
- Maybe more due to other cancers not being considered.
- Disparities maybe exacerbated with COVID-19

### Delays in Treatment

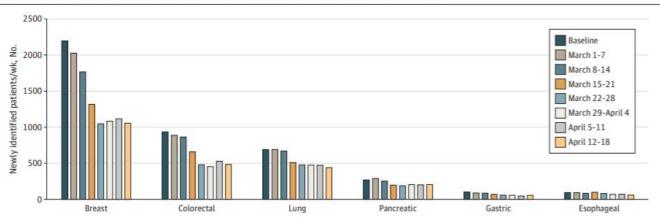
- 79% of patients actively undergoing treatment had to delay some aspect of their care due to COVID-19.
- Clinical Trial Enrollment
  - 30% lower due to COVID-19.





# Decrease in new cancer diagnoses





Cancer type	January 6, 2019, to February 29, 2020			March 1 to April 18, 2020		
	Patients, No.	Women, No. (%)	Age, mean (SD), y	Patients, No.	Women, No. (%)	Age, mean (SD), y
Breast	132 513	132 513 (100)	64.3 (12.7)	9475	9475 (100)	63.0 (13.0)
Colorectal	56744	28 056 (49.6)	66.7 (13.4)	4377	2109 (48.2)	65.4 (13.3)
Lung	41 671	22 332 (53.7)	70.1 (10.6)	3753	1960 (52.3)	69.3 (11.0)
Pancreatic	16 268	8083 (49.8)	67.6 (12.7)	1547	820 (53.0)	66.8 (12.8)
Gastric	5744	2454 (42.8)	67.4 (13.5)	471	180 (38.2)	66.7 (13.8)
Esophageal	5658	1354 (24.0)	68.4 (11.4)	557	142 (25.5)	69.5 (11.0)

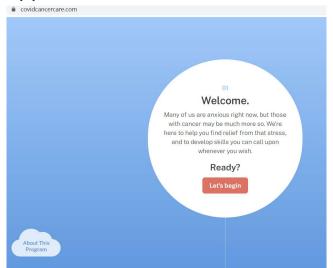


Kaufman, H., Chen, Z., & Fesko, Y. (2020). Changes in the Number of US Patient with Newly Identified Cancer Before and During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic, *JAMA Network Open*, *3*(8).

# Implications for cancer care

#### Mental Health

- Provide mental health support
- Address physical and psychosocial needs
- High distress
- Mobile apps



covidcancercare.com

#### ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

Blue Note Therapeutics created and launched the COVID Cancer Care program to help cancer patients cope with COVID-19 related stress and anxiety. This program is a brief preview of a stress management program using cognitive behavioral therapy and relaxation therapy, which has been utilized and studied extensively in cancer patient populations for over 20 years.

While Blue Note's therapeutic products will require a physician's prescription, this preview is being made available immediately without a prescription. The coronavirus pandemic has created an urgent need for digital therapy tools to help people in distress who can't get support in person due to social distancing. Please note that the program has not been reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but the agency recognizes that cancer patients are struggling now more than ever, and its recent guidance enables the program's immediate release. Patients should speak with their physician before using the program.



# How can we improve cancer care during COVID-19?

## Messaging

- Collaborate with Marketing/Communications through multiple media channels to be able to reach patients
- Host virtual forums/webinars as outreach opportunities to provide education
- Debunk myths, bias, and misinformation

### Follow-up

- Continue to utilize telemedicine as a platform to see patients actively in treatment and for discussions surrounding clinical trials.
- Assign resources to contact patients for their yearly screenings

#### Safety

- Assure that cancer screenings are continued to be offered in a safe and effective way.
- Plan ahead and prevents backlog in the log run.



We're Ready to Care for You

# How can we improve cancer care during COVID-19?

#### Access to care

- Improve ability to access care electronically
   -Self-scheduling for cancer care
- Provide Resources
  - Local and national advocacy groups
  - Convert cancer support services via video conferencing
  - Apply for grants that support patient financial barriers



# Tips to navigating COVID-19 and cancer care

- Strict visitor policy
- Use of oral treatment when appropriate
- Consider treatment breaks
- Home lab draws
- Drive thru pick ups for medications or delivery service
- Consider neoadjuvant therapy instead of surgery when applicable
- Risk-benefit analysis for HSCT patients
- Evaluate clinical trial enrollments on case by case basis



## **Conclusions**

- The emergence of COVID-19 is changing the survival outcomes in cancer
- Delays in screening, diagnosis, and treatment are reported
- Late disease presentation and poorer clinical outcomes are of concern.
- Leveraging Information Technology (IT) and Communications teams to reach patients.
- Utilize creative ways to continue outreach initiatives to reduce health disparities.
- Vaccine effectiveness may be lower in cancer patients, much lower for those with hematologic malignancies.
- Convalescent plasma is an option not to be forgotten.





## **Conclusions**

### Patient education is important

A version of chloroquine (chloroquine phosphate) is used as an additive to clean fish aquariums. Consuming this fish tank additive has led to at least 1 death and other overdoses. Do not consume this product—it can kill you.

Drinking bleach or injecting bleach or other household disinfectants is very dangerous and can kill you. Another proposed treatment to avoid is oleandrin, an extract that comes from a toxic shrub. Ingesting even a small amount of the plant can kill you. These are not treatments for COVID-19, and they will not help prevent it.



Doctor-Approved Patient Information from ASCO®



# Thank You





