

## The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on Cancer

Marrone E, Romano C, Gallucci F, Valentino U, Abate A, Mastrobuoni C, Morelli D, Cinque F and Morella P

UOC Medicina Interna 3, AORN A. Cardarelli, Napoli, Italy

**Background and Aims:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, cancer screening has been suspended, routine diagnostic work deferred, and only urgent symptomatic cases had priority for diagnostic intervention. This disruption to cancer screening services may have a significant impact on patients, health care practitioners, and health systems.

**Materials/patients and Methods:** In this retrospective cohort study, we collected data on patients with active or previous malignancy, aged 18 years and older, admitted to our Unit of Clinical Medicine from 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021 (Group A) compared with pre-pandemic figures from 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2020 (Group B).

**Results:** We collected data of 239 patient from Group A, 121 (50.6%) were female. Median (interquartile range) age was 65.0

(56.0-70.0) years, 43/239 (18%) were hospitalized due to cancer or its complications. Compared with pre-pandemic figures (Group B), we estimate an increase in hospitalizations of patients with newly diagnosed advanced cancer and/or complications of previous cancer.

**Discussion:** Substantial increases in the number of new cases of cancer, particularly in advanced stages, in our wards of Internal Medicine are to be expected as a result of diagnostic delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## References

1. Jazieh AR, Akbulut H, Curigliano G, Rogado A, Alsharm AA, et al. (2020) Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Cancer Care: A Global Collaborative Study. JCO Glob Oncol 6: 1428-1438.