

Children, COVID-19 and Cancer. Is there Toom for Fears? †

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Abstract: The dramatic and sudden spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has created general anxiety, especially among carriers of chronic diseases, due to uncertainties fueled by constantly changing instructions. Statistics show that the incidence of COVID-19 is more noteworthy among grown-ups than in the pediatric population because, until now, children have accounted for 1%-5% of diagnosed COVID-19 cases [1]. It is a well-known fact that cancer patients are at increased risk of infection; moreover, children with malignancies are considered a high-risk population, therefore, anti-epidemic measures were urgently needed. This study aims to summarize the results of the published studies regarding the impact of COVID-19 infection on pediatric cancer patients. We conducted several searches in PubMed and Google Academic to identify the available published literature on children with cancer affected by COVID-19. Results: Most cancer types included hematological malignancies and solid tumors, more precisely: acute lymphoblastic and myeloid leukemia, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, brain tumor, Wilms tumor, and bone tumor [2]. The risks of infection related to their state of therapy-induced immunosuppression may be counterbalanced by the protective effect of a young age [3]. The experts from Children Cancer and Leukaemia Group constantly update their recommendations regarding the vaccination of children undergoing treatment for cancer, depending on age and their underlying health conditions [4]. In conclusion, further studies are needed, meanwhile, the published data is optimistic and indicate that it may not be necessary to modify or delay the cancer treatment program, especially for children who remain asymptomatic or have only mild symptoms of the viral disease [5]. COVID-19 has generated challenging times, and collaboration among international pediatric oncologists is mandatory to get through such uncertain times.

Keywords: children; COVID-19; cancer.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.