

The World Beyond Pandemic: Patients with Cancer Going through Covid-19 †

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Abstract: The pandemic had a huge impact on the entire society and especially on the medical system, oncology is one of the most affected areas. Various comorbidities can make a person more vulnerable to coronavirus infection or to a severe evolution of Covid; cancer is of special interest in this regard, as in the case of such a disease, the immune system is regularly affected both in the context of the disease itself and by the medication recommended for it. Our purpose is to bring to the attention of the audience some data on the particularities of Covid-evolution in oncological patients and the impact of the disease on cancer evolution. We have consulted recent scientific articles, especially review-type, obtained by searching PubMed, The Oncologist, and Medscape database by keywords appropriate to the theme. We did not aim not to realize a comprehensive review but to highlight some useful data. Numerous studies have shown that oncological Covid patients have an increased risk of post-disease sequelae and a higher mortality rate (by about 30% higher vs. Covid-patients with no malignancies); the majority (about 70%) needed hospitalization, and 12% of them were hospitalized in intensive care units. Many of those who survived presented sequelae and unfavorable evolution of the oncological disease (including the progression of the malignant tumor), like oxygen dependence. Patients undergoing chemotherapy passed through the infection with more severe symptoms, and the duration of the symptomatic period was higher, while complications were less common in those with hormone therapy. Patients with lung cancer and hematologic malignancy seem to be the most severely affected, while breast cancer is associated with a lower risk of death in patients with covid-19. Healthcare professionals should offer special attention to Covid-patients and different comorbidities, especially those who have had or currently have a form of a malignant tumor.

Keywords: cancer; covid-19; risk; mortality.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.