

COVID-19 for Oncologists

Findings suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic had a substantial impact on cancer patients, with several challenges specific to rural patients. A comprehensive study provided unique insights into the first 6 months of COVID-19 pandemic-related experiences and continuity of care among rural and urban cancer patients predominantly from Utah. Further research is needed to better characterize the pandemic's short- and long-term effects on rural and urban cancer patients and appropriate interventions ¹⁾.

Handling the [COVID-19](#) pandemic in the oncological setting. ²⁾

Kamal et al. conducted a [meta-analysis](#) to address the outcomes in cancer patients after oncologic surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary endpoint was the COVID-19-related [mortality rate](#). Higher [body mass index](#) was significantly and negatively associated with higher all-cause mortality and in-hospital COVID-19 [infection](#) rates. [Male](#) sex, preoperative respiratory disease, and [smoking](#) history were positively and significantly associated with increased all-cause mortality rates. Furthermore, male sex was positively and significantly associated with the COVID-19 infection rate ³⁾.

[Neuro-oncology](#) Management During the [COVID-19 Pandemic](#) With a Focus on [WHO Grade III](#) and IV Gliomas.

Because of the increased risk in cancer patients of developing complications caused by the [severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2](#) (SARS-CoV-2), physicians have to balance the competing risks of the negative impact of the [pandemic](#) and the [primary tumor](#). In this [consensus](#) statement, an international group of [experts](#) present mitigation strategies and treatment guidelines for patients suffering from [high-grade gliomas](#) (HGG) during the [coronavirus disease 2019](#) (COVID-19) [pandemic](#).

16 international experts in the treatment of HGG contributed to this consensus-based practice recommendation including neuro-oncologists, neurosurgeons, radiation -oncologists, and a medical physicist. Generally, the treatment of neuro-oncological patients cannot be significantly delayed, and initiating therapy should not be outweighed by COVID-19. We present detailed interdisciplinary treatment strategies for molecular subgroups in two pandemic scenarios, a scale-up phase, and a crisis phase.

This practice recommendation presents a pragmatic framework and consensus-based mitigation strategies for the treatment of HGG patients during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic ⁴⁾.

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