

## Antineoplastics

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## COVID-19: 11 case reports

In a monocentric, observational study (COVINT study) investigating the incidence of COVID-19 in patients undergoing medical anticancer treatment in the Institute of Milan outpatient clinic between 16 February 2020 and April 2020, 11 patients (four men and seven women) aged 35–82 years were described, who developed COVID-19 infection during treatment with cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, durvalumab, fulvestrant, gemcitabine, ifosfamide, nivolumab, palbociclib, pembrolizumab, oxaliplatin or fluorouracil for various cancers.

The patients, who had stage II–IV urothelial cancer, breast cancer, sarcoma, melanoma, gastric cancer or lung cancer, had been receiving durvalumab (1 patient), gemcitabine (1 patient), ifosfamide (2 patients), doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide (1 patient), fulvestrant (1 patient), pembrolizumab (2 patients), nivolumab (1 patient), fluorouracil [5FU] and oxaliplatin (1 patient) and fulvestrant and palbociclib (1 patient). Of the two patients receiving ifosfamide, one patient received ifosfamide as a continuous infusion [*dosages not stated; not all routes stated*]. Nine of the 11 patients had various comorbidities, and ten of the 11 patients had been receiving various concomitant medications. However, all 11 patients developed COVID-19 infections, which was determined to be related to anticancer treatments. Interval from last treatment administration to the onset of first COVID-19 symptom was 4–21 days. Ten of the 11 patients were hospitalised in Italy.

The patient, who was receiving ifosfamide as a continuous infusion, continued receiving the treatment. Seven of the 11 patients received off-label treatment for COVID-19, including hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin and aspirin [acetylsalicylic acid] (1 patient), hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and unspecified corticosteroids (1 patient), hydroxychloroquine, ibuprofen, levofloxacin, ceftazidime, vancomycin and unspecified corticosteroids (1 patient), hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, lopinavir/ritonavir, levofloxacin, piperacillin/tazobactam [Tazocin] and ceftriaxone (1 patient), hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin (2 patients) and hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin and meropenem (1 patient). Five patients received prophylactic unspecified low molecular weight heparins. Eight of the 11 patients received continuous positive airway pressure oxygen therapy or low/high flow fluxes oxygen therapy. Eventually, six of the 11 patients died of COVID-19 [*not all outcomes stated*].

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