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### 1571P Chemotherapy in the COVID-19 era: The patient's perception

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**Background:** The COVID-19 pandemic poses significant challenges for the management of patients with cancer. In our institution we adapted our delivery of outpatient systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) by introducing a number of 'risk-reducing' measures including pre-assessment screening. We sought to evaluate our patients' experiences of this and to gain an insight into their perception of the risks associated with COVID-19. This is a cohort of patients who are at risk of increased morbidity and mortality and often have complex care needs.

**Methods:** Patients on active SACT attending the oncology day ward during the COVID-19 pandemic were eligible for participation. Data were collected over a one week period during the most intensive phase of Government restrictions, from 11/May/20-18/May/20. Personal demographics including information on social supports were recorded. In order to assess how patients perceived their care during COVID-19 they were asked questions under three headings: risk of infection exposure, changes to treatment plan and psychological impact of COVID-19.

**Results:** 100 patients were assessed, of these 60 (60%) were male, 41 (41%) were >65 years of age and 67 (67%) had advanced cancer. 11 (11%) patients were living alone. 95 (95%) had family/friends available to help with daily activities such as shopping and transport to medical appointments. 57 (57%) reported feeling at increased risk in general of contracting COVID-19, with 95 (95%) practising social isolation. 68 (68%) patients reported that they were not worried about contracting COVID-19 in the hospital. 96 (96%) patients stated that they wanted to continue on their treatment as originally planned, reporting feeling safer on therapy. 58 (58%) felt isolated and 40 (40%) reported increased anxiety. 10 (10%) opted to delay medical attention if unwell at home.

**Conclusions:** Though patients on active treatment for cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic reported increased anxiety and feelings of isolation due to COVID-19, the majority of patients wanted to continue SACT as originally planned. Patients may benefit from enhanced psycho-oncological supports in the event of a 2<sup>nd</sup> peak or prolonged COVID pandemic.

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### 1572P Psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health care workers in oncology in Tunisia

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**Background:** Between 13 March 2020 — date of national lockdown and passing to a third level national alert- and 11 May —first day of progressive release- confirmed cases rose from 24 to 1035 cases 46 deaths. Knowing that oncology health workers are treating cancer patients who have a higher risk of complication due to COVID-19, strict measures were applied. Understanding the psychological impact of the COVID-19 outbreak among health care workers is crucial in guiding policies and interventions to maintain their psychological well-being.

**Methods:** Health care workers in oncology were invited to participate with a self-administered questionnaire. In addition to information on demographic characteristics and medical history, the questionnaire included the validated Patient Health Questionnaire -9 (PHQ-9), the Generalized Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7) and the Insomnia Severity Index.

**Results:** Of 100 health workers invited, 48 (48%) participated in the study; baseline characteristics are shown in the Table. Eleven (22.9%) participants screened positive for anxiety, 37 (77.1%) for mild to moderately severe depression, 7 (14.6%) for severe depression, noting that 14 (29.3%) are at risk of self-harm at least on several days. 15(31.3%) participants are suffering from clinical insomnia and one (2.1%) from

severe insomnia. The prevalence of depression was higher among nonmedical health care workers than medical personnel (76.2% versus 44.4% moderate to severe depression). Similarly, higher anxiety level were amongst paramedical staff (38.1% versus 11.1% for medical staff). 16 Participants (33.4%) suffer from clinical insomnia with higher numbers among non-medical staff (42.9% versus 25.9% for medical staff).

Table: 1572P

<b>Sex n(%): F/M:</b>	37(77.1)/ 11(22.9)
<b>Age:</b>	35.33
<b>Status n(%)</b>	
Married	31(64.6)
Single	16(33.3)
Divorced or widowed	1(2.1)
<b>Profession n(%)</b>	
Medical staff	27(56.3)
Paramedical-staff	21(43.8)
<b>PHQ-9 Score</b>	
No depression	4(8.3)
Mild depression	16(33.3)
Moderate depression	12(25)
Moderately severe depression	9(18.8)
Severe depression	7(14.6)
<b>Do you think about harming yourself in anyway these last weeks n(%)</b>	
No	34(70.8)
Several Days	9(18.8)
More than half the days	3(6.3)
Nearly everyday	2(4.2)
<b>GAD7item n(%)</b>	
Minimal anxiety	37(77.1)
Significant anxiety	11(22.9)
<b>ISI n(%)</b>	
No insomnia	10(20.8)
Subclinical insomnia	22(45.8)
Moderate clinical insomnia	15(31.3)
Severe clinical insomnia	1(2.1)

**Conclusions:** As the pandemic continues, important clinical and policy strategies are needed to support health care workers. Our study identified a vulnerable group susceptible to psychological distress. Early psychological intervention for this target group may be beneficial.

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### 1573P Anxiety and depression in cancer patients during the COVID-19 pandemic: A single-centre study

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**Background:** The COVID-19 pandemic has caused global mental health crisis. It has resulted in new sources of anxiety and depression among cancer patients which causes increasing psychological pressure. This study aimed at assessing the anxiety and depression in Tunisian cancer patients.

**Methods:** We conducted an observational, cross-sectional study between March and May 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Symptoms of anxiety and depression in cancer patients were screened using the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). A total of 91 patients replied to this survey.

**Results:** From a total of 91 respondents in the study, there were 48 (52.7%) male patients and 43 (47.3%) female patients. 59 (64.8%) of the patients involved in this study were above 40 years of age, followed by 17(18.7%) of 20-29 years old and 15(16.5%) of 30-39 years old. About marital status, 67(73.6%) were married, 5 (5.5%) divorced, 4(4.4%) widowed and 15 (16.5%) were single. The incidence of depression under novel coronavirus pandemic in cancer patients was 29.7% (27/91). Eighteen (66.7%) had mild depression, 7(25.9%) moderate depression and two (7.4%) severe depression. The incidence of anxiety was 69.2% (63/91). Of those patients, 42(66.7%) were experiencing mild anxiety, 12(19%) moderate anxiety and 9(14.3%) severe anxiety. Univariate analysis showed that asthenia, family support and pain were associated with anxiety ( $p=0.006$ ,  $p=0.001$  and  $p=0.009$ , respectively). Multivariate analysis of logistic regression revealed that family support during the COVID-19 pandemic was negatively correlated with the level of anxiety ( $p=0.01$ ). Presence of pain was associated with anxiety (OR= 4.106; 95%CI, 1.011-16.672;  $p=0.048$ ). There