

Cancer Amid COVID-19: How the Pandemic is Affecting Cancer Care

A joint presentation by Clarity Patient Advocates and Georgia CORE

Special Guest: Dr. John McBroom, Piedmont Physicians Gynecologic Oncology

Introductions



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Agenda

- *Risk of COVID-19 for cancer patients*
- *Recommendations for those at risk*
- *Changes in practice*
- *Changes in therapies*
- *Insurance in the event of a job loss*
- *Advance care planning*
- *Questions*
- *Additional resources*





Risks of COVID-19

Type of cancer

Cancer metastasis

Treatment regimen

Increased contact with healthcare
system

Co-morbidities

COVID-19 Complications



Pneumonia



ICU admission



Mechanical ventilation



Death



Recent Studies

Two recent studies

- 218 patients in New York in March and April 2020
- 105 cancer patients in Wuhan, China in January and February 2020

Findings

- Covid-19 patients with cancer had more severe outcomes
- Most severe outcomes:
 - Hematological cancers
 - Lung cancer
 - Stage IV cancer
 - Surgical patients
 - Immunotherapy
 - Certain co-morbidities



Patients with cancer appear more vulnerable to SARS-COV-2: a multi-center study during the COVID-19 outbreak
Mengyuan Dai, Dianbo Liu, Miao Liu, Fuxiang Zhou, Guiling Li, Zhen Chen, Zhian Zhang, Hua You, Meng Wu, Qichao Zheng, Yong Xiong, Huihua Xiong, Chun Wang, Changchun Chen, Fei Xiong, Yan Zhang, Yaqin Peng, Siping Ge, Bo Zhen, Tingting Yu, Ling Wang, Hua Wang, Yu Liu, Yeshan Chen, Junhua Mei, Xiaojia Gao, Zhuyan Li, Lijuan Gan, Can He, Zhen Li, Yuying Shi, Yuwen Qi, Jing Yang, Daniel G Tenen, Li Chai, Lorelei A. Mucci, Mauricio Santillana and Hongbing Cai
Cancer Discov April 28 2020 DOI: 10.1158/2159-8290.CD-20-0422

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/cancer-patients-face-high-mortality-from-covid-19-301050959.html>
accessed 5/1/2-2-

Patient Concerns

- Fear of contracting COVID-19
- Anxiety over delayed treatment
- Financial Insecurity
- Loss of Insurance





Recommendations



- Social distancing
- Frequent hand washing
- Don't touch face
- Wear masks outside of the home
- Clean and disinfect often
- Avoid anyone who is sick or has been exposed to the coronavirus

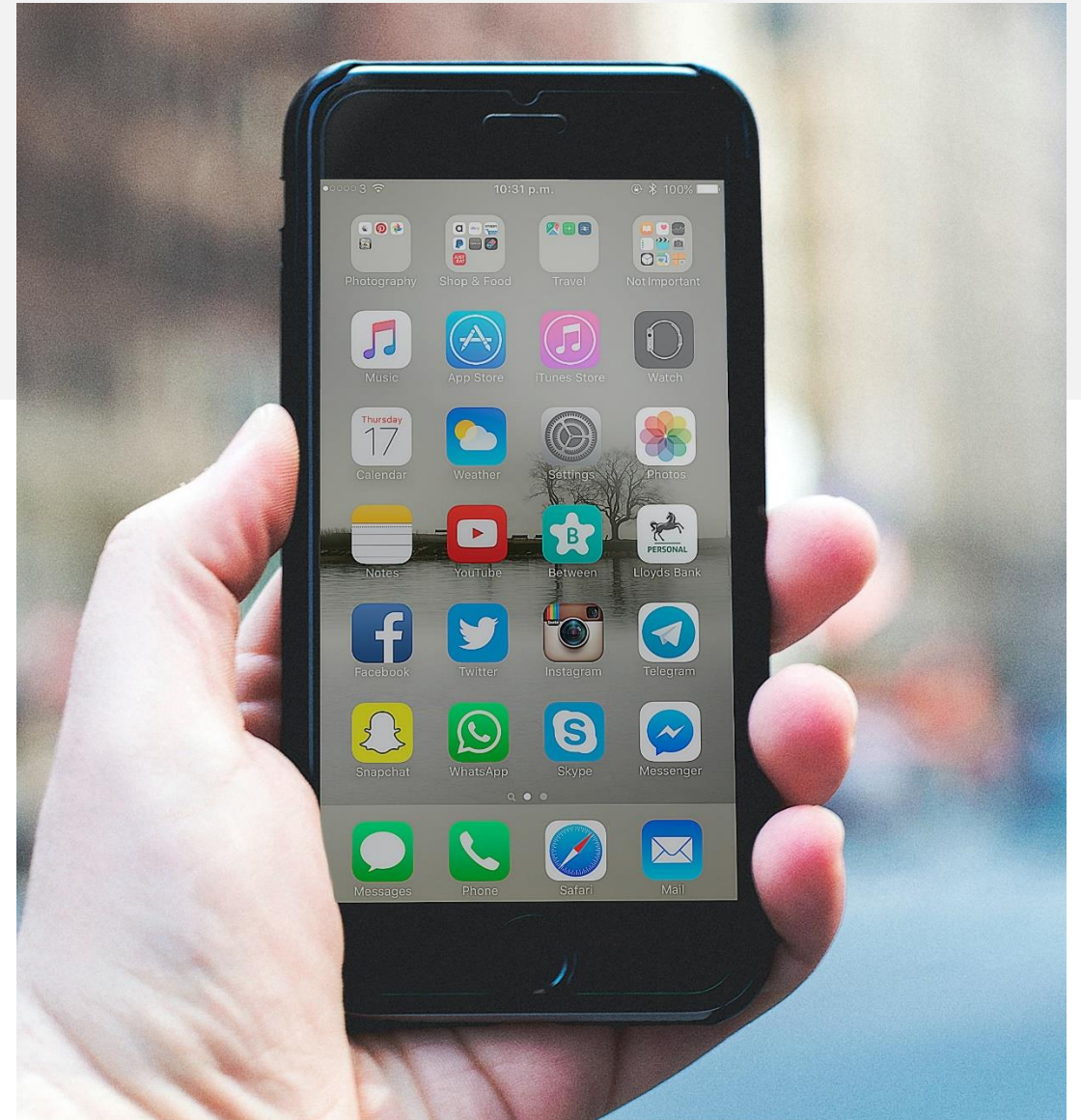


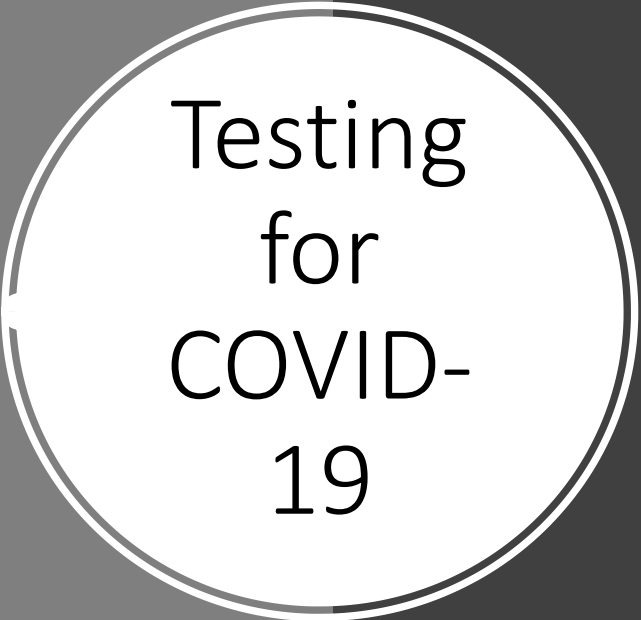
Cancer Screening

- American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) recommends delaying routine screenings
- Diagnostic screening should be on the advice of your physician

What to do

- If in active treatment, consult your oncologist
- If not in active treatment, contact your primary care physician
- Do not show up to a physician office or ER without calling first
- If urgent call 911 and alert them of possible exposure





Testing for COVID- 19

- CDC has determined people with underlying conditions are Priority 2
- Depends on availability
- Clinicians urged to use professional judgement
- Prevalence in area may affect testing





Practice Changes

- Telehealth visits
- Limiting visitors
- Pre-screening
- Requiring masks
- Social distancing

Adjustments in Therapies



Switching dosing schedules for in-person visits



Changing to oral therapies



Short course radiation or hypo-fractionated radiation may be used



Time between restaging scans and labs may be increased



Opportunities for clinical trials diminished



Providing some therapies at home



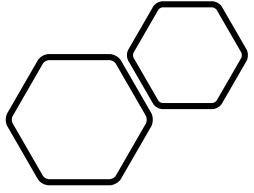
Disease-Specific Guidelines

- Some organizations offering treatment guidelines
- Can find at (ASCO) website <https://www.asco.org/asco-coronavirus-information/care-individuals-cancer-during-covid-19>
- Guidelines offer some considerations

Some Thoughts

- Each case is individual
- Must weigh risks





Health Insurance Options



COBRA



Other family
member plans



Medicaid



Marketplace

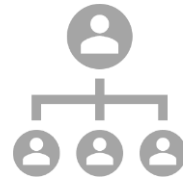
COBRA

- Continuity
- Can be expensive
- Consider expenses already incurred



Family Member's Plan

- Spouse and adult child under 26
- Expensive
- Qualifying event



Medicaid

- Income based
- Put in an application
 - <https://www.healthcare.gov/blog/who-qualifies-for-medicaid/>
 - Will let you know if you qualify
 - If don't qualify, may be eligible for tax credits



Marketplace

- Loss of insurance is a qualifying event – 60 days
- Different Tiers
- May qualify for tax credits or premium subsidies
- Get more info at <https://www.healthcare.gov/>



Advance Care Planning

Living Will

Healthcare Power of Attorney

POLST

Organizations

- <https://fivewishes.org/five-wishes-covid-19>
- <https://polst.org/>
- <https://theconversationproject.org/>
- <https://www.nhpco.org/>



Patient Resources

Available at www.georgiacancerinfo.org/cwebinar

- <https://www.asco.org/asco-coronavirus-information/care-individuals-cancer-during-covid-19>
- <https://www.healthcare.gov/blog/who-qualifies-for-medicaid/>
- <https://www.healthcare.gov/>
- <https://fivewishes.org/five-wishes-covid-19>
- <https://polst.org/>
- <https://theconversationproject.org/>
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- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
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- <https://www.cancer.gov>
- <https://www.kff.org/interactive/subsidy-calculator/>

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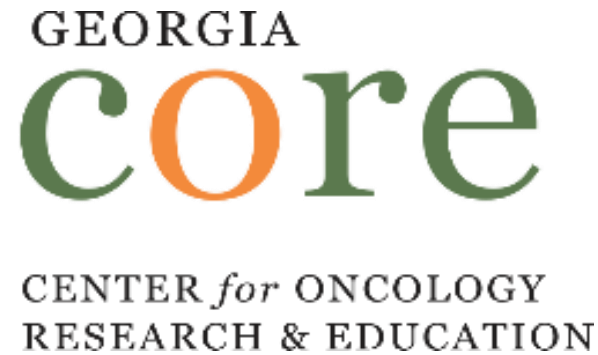
Visit us online at:
www.claritypatientadvocates.com



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