

## Abstract

## Cancer Patients Hospitalized with Suspected Covid-19 Infection: A Single-Center Experience

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## Abstract

**Introduction and Objectives:** Cancer patients are regarded as a highly vulnerable group in the current pandemic of the novel coronavirus, also known as SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19. However, there are no large reported series on this matter [1-3].

The objective of this study is to describe the characteristics and evolution of cancer patients with suspected COVID-19 infection who were admitted to Hospital Clínico Universitario Lozano Blesa in Zaragoza from February 28, 2020, to April 30, 2020, where 584 cases of COVID-19 infection and 149 deaths were reported.

**Material and Methods:** An excel 2010 database was made with information collected from patients included in this descriptive, observational, retrospective study. A qualitative descriptive statistical analysis was performed by Jamovi.

**Results:** A total of 53 cancer patients with suspected COVID-19 infection were included. Median age was 65 years (range 34-89) and 56.6% were men. Lung cancer was the most common cancer type (3.4%), followed by breast cancer (13.3%) and head and neck cancer (11.3%). 66% had stage IV cancer and 84.9% were undergoing active treatment (CTX 54.7%, IMT 11.3%, a combination of both 7.5% and others 11.3%) [1-3].

The most common symptoms were fever (51%), dyspnoea (43.4%) and gastrointestinal symptoms (26.4%). 27% had radiological findings consistent with COVID-19 infection. 5 patients (9.4%) had positive PCR results.

Median length of stay was 9 days (range 1-50). 90.6% were admitted from Emergency Department and 9.4% from Oncology consulting room. One patient required admission to ICU. 5 patients died during hospitalization, 2 of which had positive PCR results.

The proportion and mortality of cancer patients hospitalized with positive PCR compared to the total cases in our facility has been 0.85% and 1.3%, respectively.

**Conclusion:** The low incidence and mortality recorded in our sample is striking, so more series will need to be analyzed in order to draw conclusions about the subtype of patients.

**Keywords:** Cancer; Coronavirus; COVID-19

## References

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