THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CANCER CARE

Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA) Hearing

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With 50% of its members being young oncologists, the ESMO membership base offers a good representation of the next generation of oncologists and of the diversity of oncology professionals worldwide.
ESMO WELCOMES THE BECA SYNOPSIS REPORT

Key highlights from our response

Immediate impacts

**Vaccinate** all those highest at risk, as soon as possible – including patients with cancer

Diligently collect **data** to monitor the effects of vaccines in the vulnerable population

**Re-start preventive measures**, including screening, to address backlog and ensure as early a diagnosis as possible.

• **Prepare the healthcare systems** for a potential surge in cancer cases, late stage diagnoses.

Rebuilding of services

• **Strengthen telemedicine** (adapted for specific disease areas, e.g. cancer) and remote monitoring, enabling the smooth transition of care through improved **digital** systems

**Strengthen workforce** Support hospitals in providing patients and healthcare professionals with timely information care during times of crises

**Work with scientific societies, patient groups** to create the best possible plan for patients with cancer

Use the data being gathered to create policies and a **strong resilience plan**

Long term learnings

**Reach out to scientific societies and patient organisations** as early as possible in crises situations

Put in place a strong **resilience plan at EU level** – including system to address shortages – to address any inequalities

**Rebuilding of services**
SUPPORTING ONCOLOGISTS IN FACING THE PANDEMIC

- ESMO Covid-19 and cancer portal
- Adapted guidelines with recommendations on Covid-19
- Slide Sets of the Covid-19 adapted recommendations
- Dedicated Patient Guides
- Surveys about the impact of the pandemic
- Specific palliative care pathways
- ESMO-CoCARE Registry
- Covid-19 & Cancer track at the ESMO Virtual Congress 2020
- Call to action, roundtable and webinars on Covid-19 vaccinations and patients with cancer
- Webinar Series: Managing Patients in the Covid-19 era
In the context of the Member States developing their vaccination strategies, the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), a scientific society representing over 25,000 oncology professionals would like to request the Member States to consider the following:

1. **VACCINATE ALL CANCER PATIENTS**
   in line with the WHO principles aiming to reduce deaths and disease burden. Patients with active disease or receiving anticancer treatment deserve an additional priority in case of limitations only.

2. **Diligently Collect Data**
   via suitable registries, in order to monitor the effects of the vaccines in the vulnerable population, including patients with cancer and immune response monitoring;

3. **Educate and Instil Confidence**
   among the public and patients in receiving the vaccines and provide them with up-to-date information in lay language.
CALL TO ACTION SUPPORTED BY 53 ORGANISATIONS

Healthcare professionals in the multidisciplinary team and patient advocacy groups
THE USE OF LARGE REGISTRIES TO ACKNOWLEDGE DIVERSITY

ESMO led/endorsed initiatives June 2020

The COVID-19 & Cancer Consortium

- US, Canada and South America

ESMO-CoCARE

ESMO COVID-19 and Cancer Registry

An international collaborative project to quickly gather real-world data and information about treatment approaches focusing on the impact of SARS-CoV-2 on cancer patients.

- Europe and Asia
HOW ARE ONCOLOGY PROFESSIONALS REACTING TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK?

1st survey, 16 April 2020: key findings

1,520 Respondents
101 Countries

67% reported a change in professional duties since COVID-19
66% not able to perform job compared to pre-COVID-19
25% at risk of distress (poor wellbeing) and 35% feeling burnout
Only 51% reported access to wellbeing support services

- 45% < 40 years old
- 55% > 40 years old
- 51% women
- 49% men
- 78% non-trainees
- 22% trainees
- 90% ESMO members
- 10% non members
- 70% medical oncologists
- 22% clinical & radiation oncologists
- 8% others
RESULTS

Wellbeing and COVID-19 job performance varied between countries (p<0.001) and were related to COVID-19 mortality rate (p<0.05)

1520 participants from 101 countries

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwestern Europe</td>
<td>271 (18%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Europe</td>
<td>248 (16%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Europe &amp; British Isles</td>
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<td>Western Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td>1 (0.1%)</td>
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- Age <40 45%
- Female 51%
- White ethnicity 71%
- Medical oncology 70%
- Trainees 22%
- >10yr post training 58%
- Change in professional duties 67%
- Increased concern for personal safety 78%

COVID-19 Crude Mortality Rate
(24th April in countries with participants)

Estimates from figures obtained from WHO and worldometer for 24 April 2020 (updated 13 July 2020)

Presented at ESMO Virtual Congress 2020
GENDER GAP IN ONCOLOGY

Is the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating it?

ESMO Women for Oncology survey

A survey to gather data about the impact of the crisis on work and home life for women and men working in oncology to identify and address possible gender differences among oncologists during the COVID-19 pandemic.
PRELIMINARY RESULTS

• Little participation from men in the survey

• Overall, COVID-19 affected the professional career of respondents in a negative way

• Women have been less present on COVID-19 advisory groups

• More men declared having spent more time on science / research / publication

• Whereas more women declared having spent less time on science / research / publication
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- Vaccinate the population
- Build a strong healthcare workforce
- Construct resilient healthcare systems
- Prepare healthcare systems for a surge in new cancer cases
THANK YOU

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