



Impact of Covid-19 on Cancer Patients

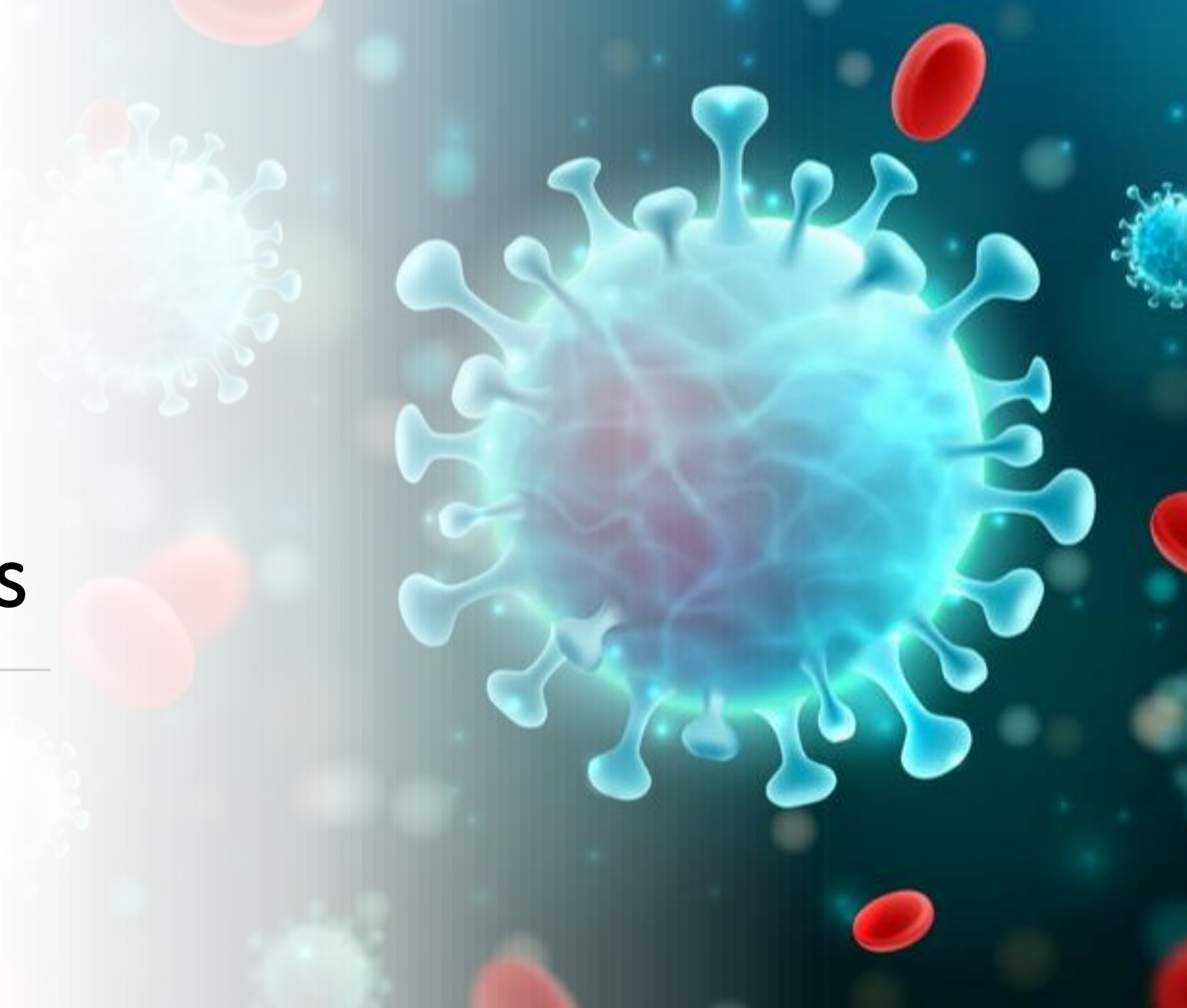
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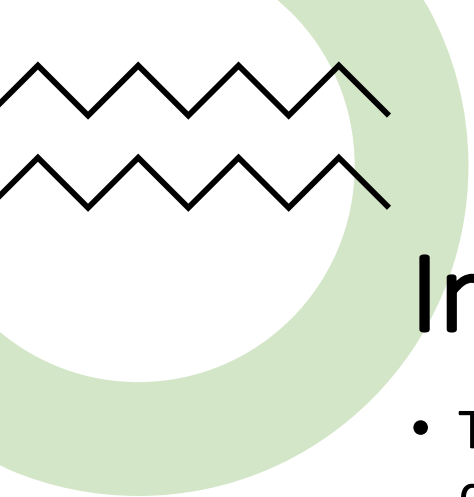
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Module: Introduction to
Research

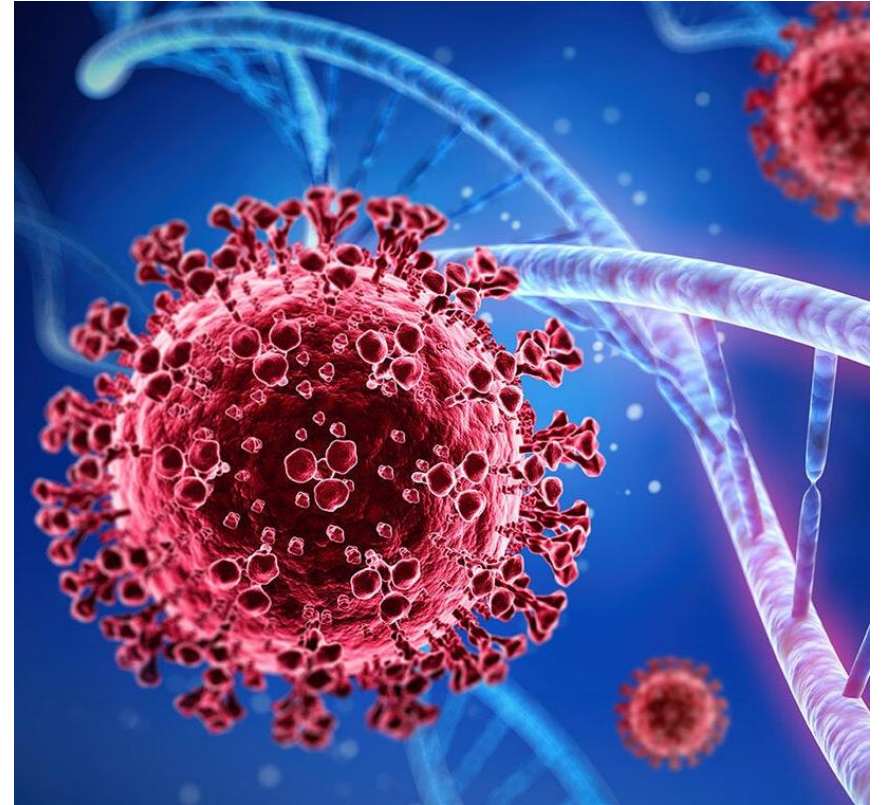
Module Code: BMHP5005





Introduction

- The literature review is geared towards determining the extent to which the current COVID-19 pandemic and related shutdowns and restrictions have impacted the lives of cancer patients
- Such research is important because it sheds light on how public health events and policies can impact seemingly unrelated aspects of health and social care
- Such research outlines the different factors that should be considered when formulating public health policies/ directives.





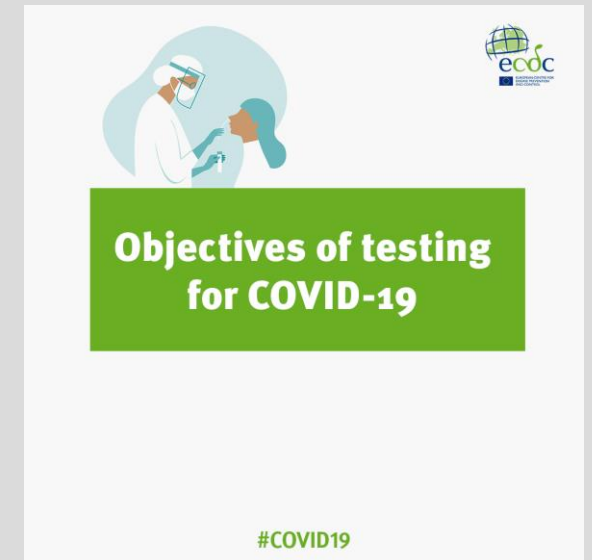
COVID-19

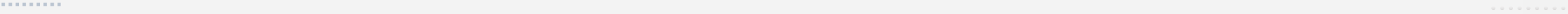
- Aim** This research aims to find out:
- The extent to which Covid-19 has impacted patients' ability to access health and social care services
 - The impact of Covid-19 on the mortality rate of cancer patients

Objectives

This research was conducted entirely online. In order to achieve the stated goals/ aims, the researcher used different sources of data/ information:

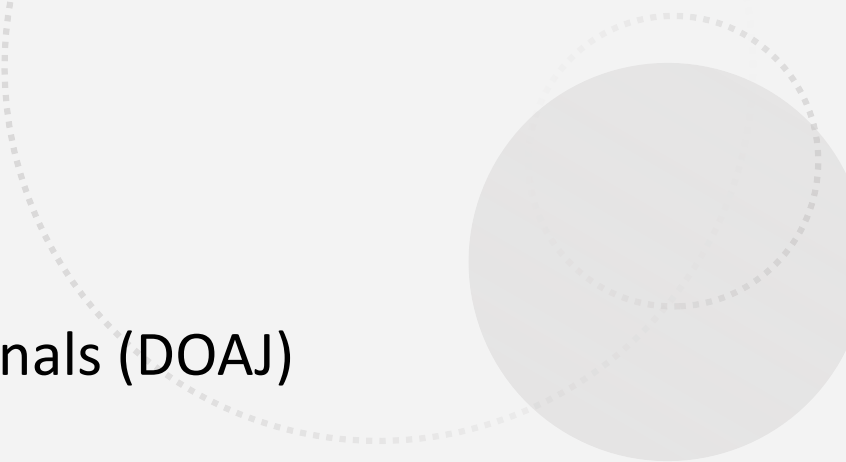
- Journal articles that outlined the impact the pandemic and the government's response to it has had on cancer patients.
- News articles covering cancer patients and their experience during the pandemic





method[®]

Methods

- The primary mode of research conducted for this study was an internet search
 - News articles
 - Journal databases:
 - PLOS ONE
 - Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
 - PubMed
 - JSTOR
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Literature Review (1/4)

	Author(s), title, and year of publication	Aim of Study	Methods and Sample size and characteristics	Summary of Main Findings
1.	Yang, K. et al. Clinical characteristics, outcomes, and risk factors for mortality in patients with cancer and COVID-19 in Hubei, China: a multicentre, retrospective, cohort study. 2020	To describe clinical characteristics and outcomes of cancer patients with COVID-19, and examine risk factors for mortality in this population	Study of 205 patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection and cancer From Jan 13 to March 18, 2020. All patients either died or were discharged from hospitals by April 20, 2020	Fatality rates are high among cancer patients who were admitted to the hospital due to COVID-19 infection Cancer patients are an especially vulnerable subgroup of the population in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The risk of COVID infection and severe illness or death is higher among cancer patients than those who do not have

Literature Review (2/4)

	Author(s), title, and year of publication	Aim of Study	Methods and Sample size and characteristics	Summary of Main Findings
²	Burton, B. et al. Insights from individuals with chronic conditions in the context of COVID-19. 2020	To evaluate the experience of individuals with pre-existing chronic conditions as it relates to health behaviours, concerns, and healthcare access in the context of COVID-19	The participants were selected from a patient panel associated with a digital health coaching program for individuals with chronic conditions, including cancer. The panel consisted of over 1000 individuals who agreed to provide patient insights on a variety of monthly health related surveys. Surveys were developed to examine how the pandemic has been affecting their health behaviours, healthcare access, and	COVID-19 has transformed how health and social care is provided to patients with chronic illnesses such as cancer, who are also at highest risk for complications related to COVID-19

Literature Review (3/4)

	Author(s), title, and year of publication	Aim of Study	Methods and Sample size and characteristics	Summary of Main Findings
3	Goswami, G. G., Mahapatro, M., Ali, A. R. M. M. & Rahman, R. Do Old Age and Comorbidity via Non-Communicable Diseases Matter for COVID-19 Mortality? A Path Analysis. 2021	To develop a model that adequately describes and predicts the likelihood of patient death based on comorbidities via non-communicable diseases such as cancer	This article used test data, death count and other data relevant to COVID-19 on 117 countries from Our World data to prepare a path model for COVID-19 deaths.	Comorbidities and old age were the two main determinants of death due to COVID-19 These non-communicable diseases such as cancer significantly impacted the COVID-19 death rate. Vaccination should be prioritized for people with non-communicable comorbidities such as cancer.

Literature Review (4/4)

	Author(s), title, and year of publication	Aim of Study	Methods and Sample size and characteristics	Summary of Main Findings
4	Jansen, C & Amesz, B. The Impact of COVID-19 on Patient Access to Cancer Care in Europe 2021	To outline the negative impact that COVID-19 has had on the lives of cancer patients.	Data and lessons from pharmaceutical companies, government agencies, and other stakeholders were collected in order to identify how COVID-19 has and still continues to impact patients' access to oncology services in Europe.	More than 50% of countries reported that their cancer services were disrupted as a result of the pandemic.

Results



- COVID-19 has significantly transformed how health and social care is provided to cancer patients
- Cancer patients are generally immunocompromised and are therefore at high risk of infection
- The risk of death or admission to the ICU is increased 3.5-fold in patients who have cancer (Yang, et al., 2020)
- European cancer diagnosis rates plummeted when the pandemic started.



Discussion

- This research study provides insights into the experience of cancer, as it relates to their healthcare outcomes and access during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Specifically, it highlights the factors affecting cancer patients' care and their health outcomes.
- A critical issue with severe COVID-19 disease is the frequent need for prolonged ICU treatment. It is therefore important that care providers and policymakers understand how the pandemic is affecting this group in order to adequately plan for their care
- More than 50% of countries reported that their cancer services were disrupted as a result of the pandemic. This was particularly pronounced in screening, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- The rate of cancer diagnosis declined rapidly in Europe at the beginning of the pandemic. The primary reason for this was the closure of screening facilities.



Conclusion

- A surge of COVID patients has overloaded healthcare systems worldwide, disrupting routine treatment of cancer patients
- Health outcomes for cancer patients have been negatively affected by the pandemic
- The pandemic has caused delays in access to oncology treatment for cancer patients
- Mortality rates have increased among cancer patients



References

Burton, B. et al., 2020. Insights from individuals with chronic conditions in the context of COVID-19. *Patient Experience Journal*, 7(2), pp. 39-52.

Goswami, G. G., Mahapatro, M., Ali, A. R. M. M. & Rahman, R., 2021. Do Old Age and Comorbidity via Non-Communicable Diseases Matter for COVID-19 Mortality? A Path Analysis. *Frontiers in Public Health*, Volume 9.

Jansen, C. & Amesz, B., 2021. *The Impact of COVID-19 on Patient Access to Cancer Care in Europe*. [Online] [Accessed 8 December 2021].

Yang, K. et al., 2020. Clinical characteristics, outcomes, and risk factors for mortality in patients with cancer and COVID-19 in Hubei, China: a multicentre, retrospective, cohort study. 1 July, 21(7), pp. 904-913.