

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CANCER TREATMENT

Preventive measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 had an immediate, wide-ranging, and negative impact on multiple aspects of cancer treatment, as underscored by the examples below:

64% to 87%

64 to 87 percent of patients with cancer reported **delays in their planned surgery** during the height of the pandemic compared to prepandemic levels.

8 to 45 days

8 to 45 days of **delay in radiotherapy** were reported by patients with cancer during the height of the pandemic compared to prepandemic levels.

36% to 51%

36 to 51 percent of cancer centers reported a change in **treatment plan for chemotherapeutic agents** during the height of the pandemic compared to prepandemic levels.

95% reduction

95 percent **reduction in biopsies** was observed during the height of the pandemic compared to prepandemic levels.

31% to 56%

31 to 56 percent of oncologists reported a **change in schedule for immune checkpoint treatment** during the height of the pandemic.

18% to 48%

18 to 48 percent of physicians and ministries of health reported **interruption of palliative care** during the height of the pandemic compared to prepandemic levels.