



European Cancer
Patient Coalition

RCE-ESMO-ESO Training Course for Rare Cancer Patient
Advocates 2022

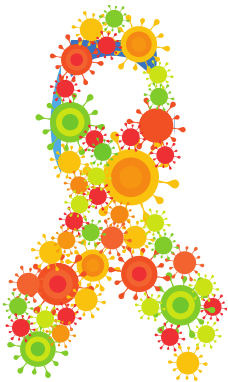
Rare cancers in the new COVID-19 era

ECPC Joint Letter on Cancer and COVID:

**Best practice example on keeping cancer care in focus
during the pandemic**

Radu Ianovici, European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)

Joint Letter on Cancer and COVID



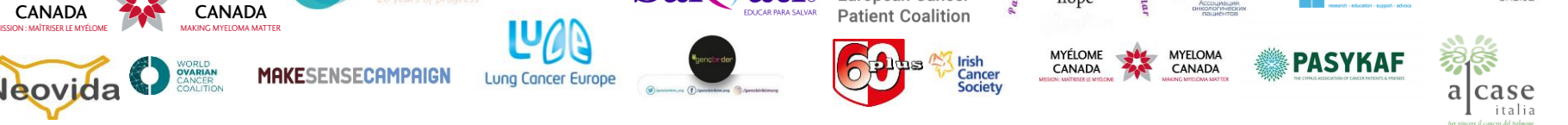
ECPC started a global campaign on the Joint letter on COVID-19 and cancer => 320 SIGNATORIES

- Stakeholders around the globe have endorsed the letter.
- It was launched during **World Health Day 2021** on **7th April** in a virtual event.
- Representatives from:
 - European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)
 - Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)
 - European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries (EFPIA) Oncology Platform
 - European Cancer Organisation (E.C.O.)
- Impact** that COVID-19 has had on cancer
- Improvement** of cancer patient outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic

Joint Letter on Cancer and COVID



320
organizations



Joint Letter on Cancer and COVID



320

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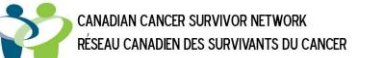
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Instituto de Medicina Integral
Prof. Fernando Figueroa



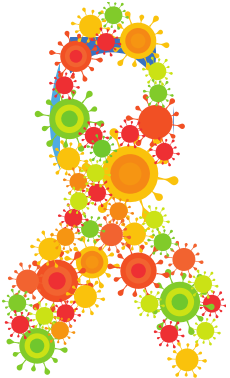
The future of cancer therapy



Joint Letter on Cancer and COVID Recommendations

1. Ensure that patients can access diagnosis and treatment safely

Health systems should design COVID-secure pathways so that services for cancer patients can remain open and, where possible, provide alternative treatment modalities, such as home chemotherapy to help shield patients. Health authorities should communicate the range of actions that have been taken to allay patients' fears about COVID-19 and their condition, including appropriate measures to tackle cancer-related complications, such as cancer-associated thrombosis, cardiovascular diseases, mental health, pain, malnutrition and more. Screening, assessment programmes and other means of diagnosing cancer early must also be restored and supported, as well as efforts to raise awareness of these programmes.



Joint Letter on Cancer and COVID Recommendations

2. Identify the impact of the pandemic on cancer services and design services to mitigate this

This means collecting and analysing data on the patients who were not diagnosed in 2020, modelling the likely additional demand for services due to missed diagnoses and appointments. In addition, it means investing in the workforce and physical capacity to meet this need, given the likely increase in the number of patients diagnosed at a late stage. We already have some analysed data available and we are willing to provide you with all relevant documentations.



Joint Letter on Cancer and COVID Recommendations

3. Resource cancer services properly and safely for the long term

Patients must be at the centre as action is taken to rebuild and improve cancer services. This means efforts to increase multi-disciplinary care, to treat cancer and related symptoms (as described above). Early diagnosis of cancer needs to be accelerated and the uptake of innovation in cancer care and treatment must happen at pace and scale to overcome the setbacks to progress experienced in 2020. Every effort should be made to ensure that cancer services are not disrupted by any future austerity measures, recognizing that spending on cancer has been stable for decades. We are ready to collaborate with you to uplift the cancer care in your country with our resources and expertise.



Joint Letter on Cancer and COVID



I am committed, and I will invest in prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of cancer.



Cancer and COVID – next steps

Cancer and COVID – high on the 2022 agenda of the Challenge Cancer Intergroup

BECA report => “Underlines that the COVID-19 crisis has had, and is still having, a significant impact on cancer patients’ survival and quality of life at all stages of the disease”;

- “one million citizens in the EU may presently be undiagnosed with cancer as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic”
- Acknowledges that rare adult cancers are a public health challenge;
- Supports the introduction of a dedicated flagship initiative on rare adult cancers within the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan

ECPC will join forces with RCE, ePAGs and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that the EC will implement the recommendations listed in the BECA report;

ECPC will work closely with the EP and French Presidency

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CANCERS
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Joining forces for action

Thank you!