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1744P COVID-19 in cancer patients: Risk factors for the development of severe clinical event (SCE)  
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Background: Some studies have suggested a higher risk of respiratory complications related to COVID-19 (C-19) in cancer patients (pts), but there is a lack of knowledge concerning the outcomes and prognostic factors. We evaluated whether various factors can predict a more serious C-19 infection.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective study including 51 pts diagnosed of C-19 between March 10 and April 7, 2020. All pts present tumor disease at diagnosis of C-19: advanced disease, neoadjuvant treatment (ttm) or maintenance ttm after definitive chemoradiotherapy. It has been evaluated whether certain factors may present an increased risk for the development of a SCE, defined as death, the need of high oxygen flow (FiO2>50%), non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation or Intensive Care Unit admission. These factors have been age, ECOG, ttm line, type of ttm, time from last ttm to C-19 diagnosis, smoke, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiopathy, body mass index, fever, cough, dyspnea, myalgia, gastrointestinal symptoms, infiltrates in chest radiography, CURB65 ≥1, creatine phosphokinase, lactate dehydrogenase and D-Dimer elevated, lymphopenia and PaO2/FiO2 <300 mmHg.

Results: At the time of the data cut-off on May 16, 2020 we have collected 51 pts. Most of them were men (61%) with a median age of 68 years (range 19-86). Lung cancer was the most frequent type of cancer (22%), and the most common ttm was chemotherapy (51%). Eighteen pts (35%) developed a SCE, with 13 deaths (25%). Only dyspnea and PaO2/FiO2 <300 mmHg showed an increased risk to develop a SCE.

Conclusions: Despite our retrospective analysis and the limited number of pts, we conclude that advanced cancer pts receiving antitumoral ttm have a higher risk for the development of SCE when considering the presence of PaO2/FiO2 <300 mmHg and dyspnea on admission. Therefore, it is crucial to screen for C-19 infection in any cancer patient who reports dyspnea, given the potential risk of poor evolution.

Legal entity responsible for the study: Oncology Department, Hospital Universitario Ramon y Cajal, Madrid.

Funding: Has not received any funding.

Disclosure: All authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2020.08.1809

1745P SARS-CoV-2 infects metabolically-primed epithelial cells in lung cancer models  
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Background: The novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 is the cause of the respiratory illness COVID-19—a global pandemic affecting over 4 million individuals worldwide. Viruses efficiently replicate by hijacking host cell machinery to obtain macromolecules and energy by similar mechanisms as cancer cells. Since viral infection is known to alter cellular nutrient requirements, this study explores the metabolites and metabolic pathways associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Methods: Bulk and single-cell sequencing data from cell lines and tumor samples were retrieved from publically available databases. Transcriptional data were retrieved from publically available datasets of gefitinib- and erlotinib-resistant EGFR-mutant cell lines and Calu3 and A549 cell lines treated or not treated with SARS-CoV-2. Single-cell RNAseq datasets of EGFR-mutant PC-9 mock and osimertinib treated were down-loaded from GEO. 225 metabolites were profiled in CLEL cell lines using LC-MS.

Results: To identify metabolic features of cells able to be infected by SARS-CoV-2 via the ACE2 receptor, metabolites associated with ACE2 expression were investigated. ACE2 expression positively correlates with glutamine in upper aerodigestive tract cell lines. Consistent with this, ACE2 expression was examined against a list of 253 metabolism-associated genes and GLUL, which encodes an enzyme (glutamine synthetase) responsible for conversion of glutamate to glutamine, was significantly positively correlated in NSCLC, HNSCC, and SCLC cell lines and confirmed in human tumor datasets. Additionally, GLS, which encodes the enzyme (glutaminase) that catalyzes the opposing reaction, is negatively correlated with ACE2 expression. Further, we analyzed RNA sequencing data from NSCLC cell lines infected with SARS-CoV-2 for 24 hours and revealed that upon infection there is a down regulation of GLUL signifying a metabolic-shift away from glutamine as the cells undergo EMT.

Conclusions: We show that SARS-CoV-2 targeting of ACE2 expressing, metabolically-primed epithelial cells is advantageous to exploit the abundance of glutamine to synthesize nucleotides for rapid replication and viral spread.

Legal entity responsible for the study: Lauren A. Byers.

Funding: NIH/NCI R01-CA207295 (L.A.B.), NIH/NCI U01-CA213273 (L.A.B., J.V.H.), CCSG P30-CA01667 (L.A.B.). University of Texas SPORE in Lung Cancer PS-CA070907 (L.A.B., D.L.G., J.V.H., C.M.G.), the Department of Defense (LC170171; L.A.B.), Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation (C.M.G.), The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center-Dorothy Ryan Cancer Program generously supported by Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Stiefel (F.M.J.), through generous philanthropic contributions to The University of Texas MD Anderson Lung Cancer Moon Shot Program and Andrew Sabin Family Fellowship, and The Rexanna Foundation for Fighting Lung Cancer.

Disclosure: C. Gay: Research grant/Funding (self): AstraZeneca; S. Heeke: Honoraria (self); Qiagen; Boehringer Ingelheim; Travel/Accommodation/Expenses: Roche. D. Gibbons: Advisory/Consultancy, Research grant/Funding (self): AstraZeneca; Janssen; Advisory/Consultancy: GlaxoSmithKline; Sanofi; Research grant/Funding (self): Takeda; Ribon Therapeutics; Astellas; J.V. Heymach: Advisory/Consultancy, Research grant/Funding (self): AstraZeneca; Advisory/Consultancy: Boehringer Ingelheim; EMD Serono; Novartis; Lilly; Hengrui; Guardant Health; GSK; Genentech; Exelixis; Synta; Advisory/Consultancy, Research grant/Funding (self): Bayer; GlaxoSmithKline. L.A. Byers: Advisory/Consultancy: Pfizer; Genentech; Bristol Myers Squibb; Merck; Pharma Mar SA; BergenBio; Advisory/Consultancy, Research grant/Funding (self): GlaxoSmithKline; Merck; BioNTech; Pfizer; Roche; Novartis; Genentech.

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Background: Higher incidence of severe events in cancer pts affected by COVID-19 have been reported. However, the association with oncological treatments is not clear yet. Recommendations have been released by Italian scientific society and colleges (AIOM, CIPOMO, COIMU) according to the risk of infection and tumor characteristics, suggesting telephone consultations and, if suitable, treatments delay.

Methods: In Modena and Reggio Emilia Cancer Centers, previous Ethic Committee approval, medical reports of pts undertaking immunotherapy between January 1st - April 30th 2020 were collected. According to WHO indications COVID-19 infection was investigated through thoracic CT scan and RT-PCR of nasopharyngeal specimens. For those pts we estimated the risk of infection and complications that lead to hospitalization.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2020.08.1809

Table: 1744P

| Odds ratio | Hazard ratio | p      | Hazard ratio | p      | Odds ratio |
|-----------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 5.2 (1.47-18.33) | 0.022 | 3.22 (1.09-9.48) | 0.034 | 8.8 (2.23-33.71) | 0.002 |

Table: 1745P

| Site primary tumor/Lung metastasis | Age (ys) | Gender | 1st Line Regimens | Smoker (Never = N) | Hospitalization (days) | Pulmonary infection involvement (%) | Death |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Colon/no                          | 40      | Female | Atezolizumab FOLFOXIRI Bevacizumab | N               | 16                     | 20-40                           | No    |
| Kidney/yes                        | 76      | Male   | Nivolumab Ipilimumab | N               | 14                     | 10                              | Yes   |
| Pleura/yes                        | 65      | Male   | Pembrolizumab Cisplatin Pemetrexed | F               | 65                     | 10                              | No    |
Chemotherapy prescriptions and emergency medical care utilization by patients in neo/adjuvant breast cancer treatment during COVID-19 pandemic: Patterns in a Brazilian University Hospital

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Background: Cancer treatment during COVID-19 pandemic have been mainly focused on safety, and prioritization has been done to guide hierarchically choices according to clinical benefits considering resource scarcity. Considering the magnitude of benefit, neo/adjuvant breast cancer treatment is positioned at medium/high levels. Despite these recommendations, patients might be refusing chemotherapy or avoiding emergency care utilization because of COVID-19 infection concerns. A better understanding of the impact of the pandemic on breast cancer chemotherapy prescription patterns and demand for emergency care can support strategies to minimize unfavorable outcomes.

Methods: Medical records from 299 breast cancer patients who started neo/adjuvant chemotherapy from January/2018 at the Hospital das Clínicas de Ribeirão Preto – USP (HCRP-USP) were retrospectively analyzed, with a total of 2,003 cycles. Clinical data, treatment information and outcomes were collected; COVID-19 pandemic period (CPP) (Mar/2020-Apr/2020) was compared to pre-pandemic period (PPP) (Jan/2018-Feb/2020).

Results: The mean number of neo/adjuvant chemotherapy cycles prescribed monthly and the mean number of treatments initiated monthly during CPP, respectively, 76 (40.3%) lung, 74 (22%) melanoma, 36 (10.7%) kidney, 23 (7%) colorectal, 12 (3.4%) head and neck, 36 (10.6%) miscellaneous. Only 3 pts (0.9%), with advanced disease and in first line therapy were hospitalized for COVID-19 (Table). The onset symptom was fever in 2 pts, and subjective dyspnea in 1 pt. Subsequently, they develop respiratory distress and underwent to non-invasive assisted ventilation, receiving hydroxychloroquine, steroids, low molecular weight heparin. Tocilizumab was administered in 1 pt due to progressive increase of serum IL-6 values. Nobody was admitted in Intensive Care Unit. Since the last update, May 15th 2020, 1 pt died; the others have recovered with negative nasopharyngeal swab.

Conclusions: Although not conclusive, in our series, cancer pts infected by COVID-19 receiving immunotherapy do not appear to be exposed to greater risk of recovery.

Legal entity responsible for the study: Angela Damato.

Disclosure: Has not received any funding.

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2020.08.1810