



EPICOVIDEHA

*Epidemiology of COVID-19 infection
in patients with hematological malignancies:
A European Haematology Association Survey*



Promotor

Dr. Livio Pagano, livio.pagano@unicatt.it

Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli – IRCCS – Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Roma, Italia



Steering committee

Dr. Alessandro Busca

AOU Citta' della Salute e della Scienza

Turin, Italy



Dr. Paolo Corradini

University of Milan

Milan, Italy



Dr. Oliver A. Cornely

University Hospital Cologne

Cologne, Germany



Dr. Martin Hoenigl

Medical University of Graz

Graz, Austria



Dr. Nikolai Klimko

North Western State Medical University

St. Petersburg, Russia



Dr. Philipp Koehler

University Hospital Cologne

Cologne, Germany



Dr. Antonio Pagliuca

Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

London, United Kingdom



Dr. Francesco Passamonti

University of Insubria

Varese, Italy



Project manager

Dr. Jon Salmanton-García, jon.salmanton-garcia@uk-koeln.de

University Hospital Cologne

Cologne, Germany



Dr. Francesco Marchesi

IRCCS Regina Elena National Cancer Institute

Rome, Italy



Project assistant

EPICOVIDEHA: A Ready to Use Platform for Epidemiological Studies in Hematological Patients With COVID-19

Inclusion criteria

- ✓ Age \geq 18 years of age
- ✓ Active malignancies at any stage/status (onset, watch and wait, progression)
- ✓ SARS-CoV-2 positive test, documented by RT-PCR or Ag test

Variables

- ✓ Demographics
- ✓ Underlying diseases
- ✓ Haematological malignancy
- ✓ COVID-19 infection
- ✓ Outcome

Benefits

- ✓ Largest network of COVID-19 patients with baseline haematological malignancies ($n > 8,000$)
- ✓ Authorship/Collaboratorship offered for every publication with cases contributed from your institution
- ✓ Option to lead your own research with any of the EPICOVIDEHA patients



- 300 contributors
- 40 countries
- 150 centers

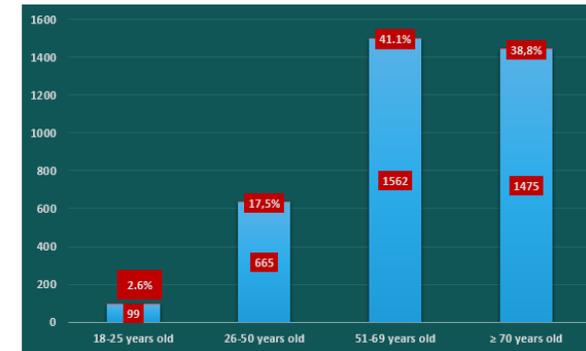
COVID-19 infection in adult patients with hematological malignancies: a European Hematology Association survey (EPICOVIDEHA)



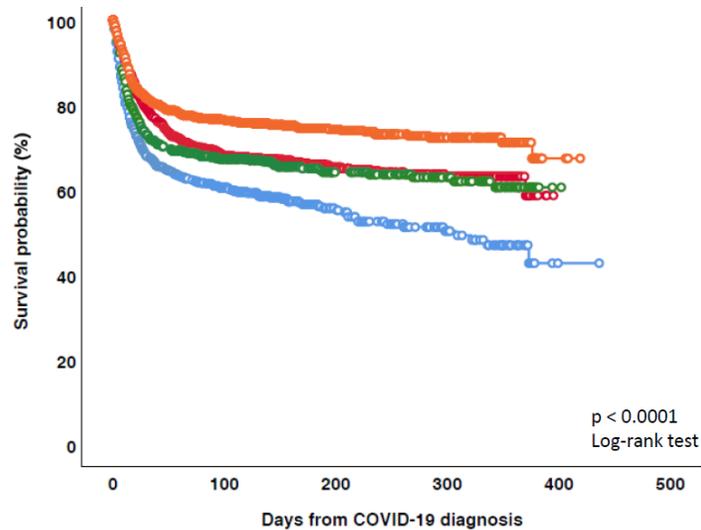
4117 cases registered in the EPICOVIDEHA platform

3801 valid cases

- 316 cases excluded
- Age <18 years
 - Clinical diagnosis of COVID-19
 - Double entry
 - Hema diseases/Solid cancer
 - Hema malignancy after CoVID
 - Incomplete information
 - More than 5 y off-therapy



Female	1579	41.5%
Male	2222	58.5%



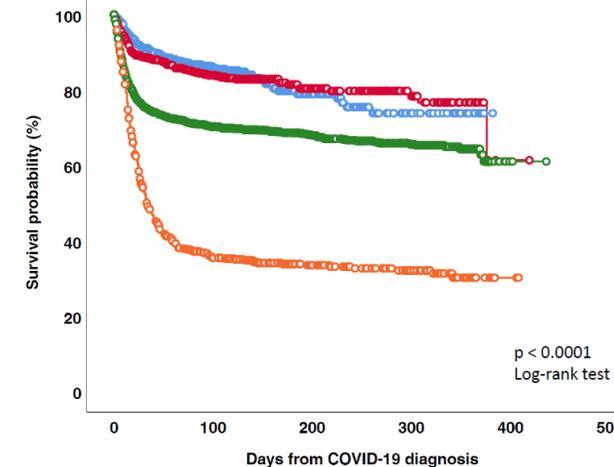
Other malignancies (1254)

NHL (1080)

MM (682)

AML + MDS (774)

In 2020 the overall mortality was 31.2%



Asymptomatic (672)

Mild infection (658)

Severe infection (1734)

Critical infection (686)

Breakthrough COVID-19 infections in vaccinated patients with Hematological Malignancies - Results from EPICOVIDEHA survey

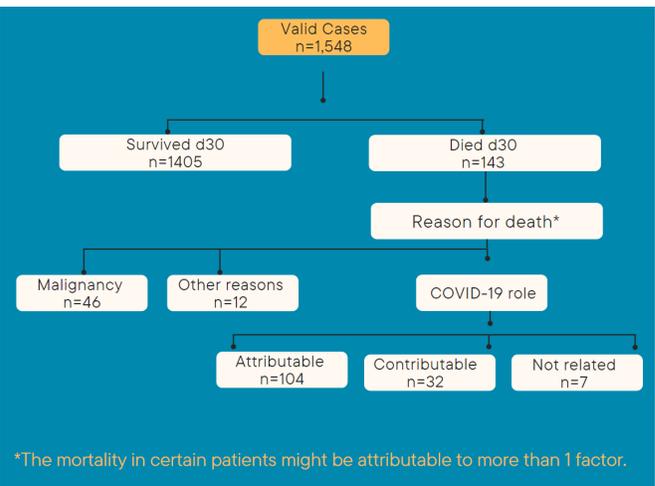
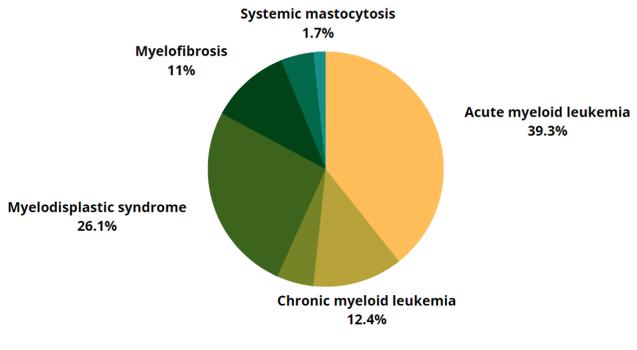
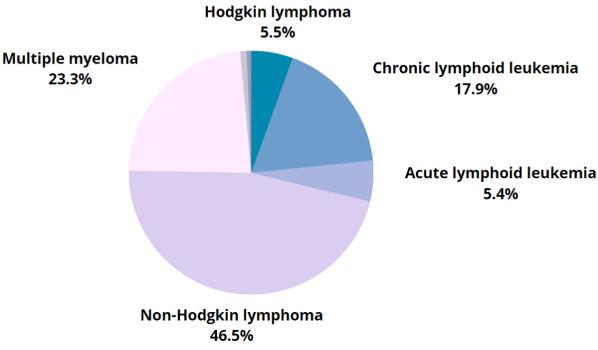
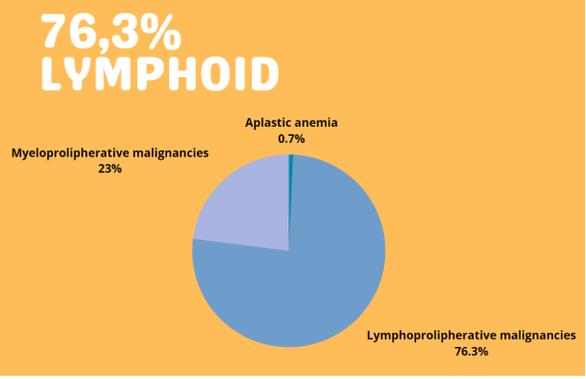
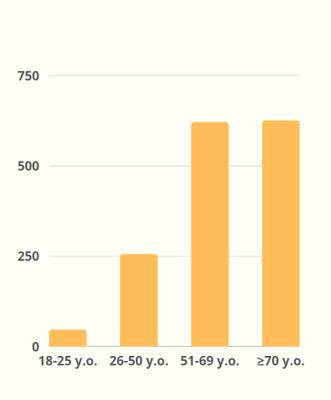
1548 Valid Cases



40,4 % ≥70 years old
40,1 % 51-69 y.o.

16,5 % 26-50 y.o.
3,0 % 18-25 y.o.

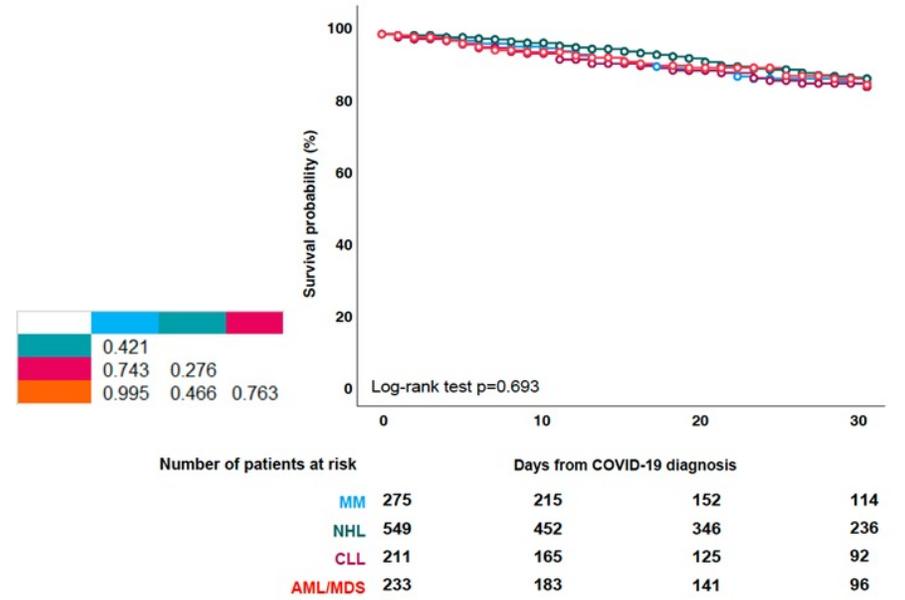
Age (median): 66
Range: 18-96



After 30-days follow-up from COVID-19 diagnosis, 143 patients (9%) died.

The mortality rate was significantly lower than in the pre-vaccine era (31%).

In the multivariable analysis, older age (p<0.001), active HM (p<0.001) were associated with mortality.



Outcome of infection with omicron-CoV-2 variant in patients with hematological malignancies: An EPICOVIDEHA survey report

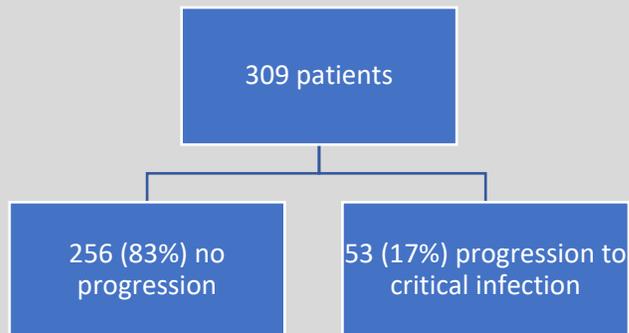
Patients: 309 hospitalized MH patients with omicron until March 2022

Characteristics: Median age 68 y, 47% \geq 70 y, 67% stable or active malignancy, 75% \geq 1 dose vaccination

Conclusion:

- Omicron associated with 17% attributable deaths
- \geq 3 doses of vaccination protected against critical infection
- Monoclonal ab protected against mortality in critical infection

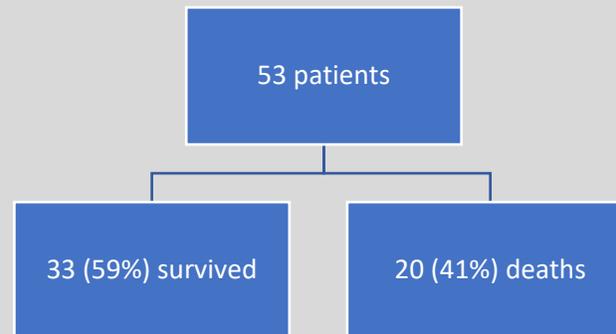
Progression to critical infection



Risk factors:

Chronic pulmonary disease (HR 3,2), lymphocyte \geq 500 (0.4), 3 doses of vaccine (0.3)

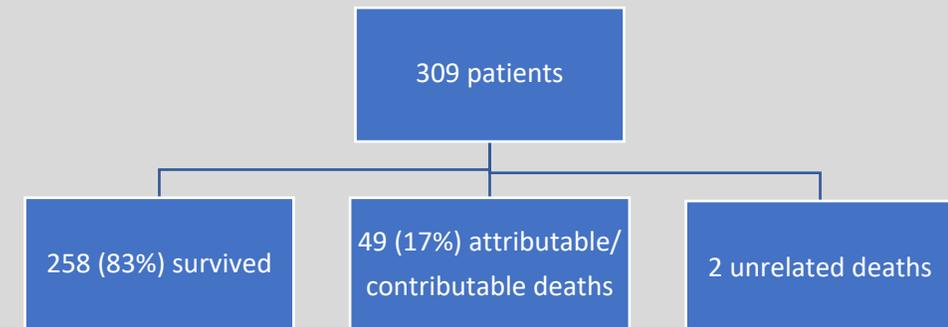
Mortality critical infection



Risk factors:

Treatment with sotrovimab or tixagevimab/cilgavimab protective (HR 0.13)

Overall mortality



Risk factors:

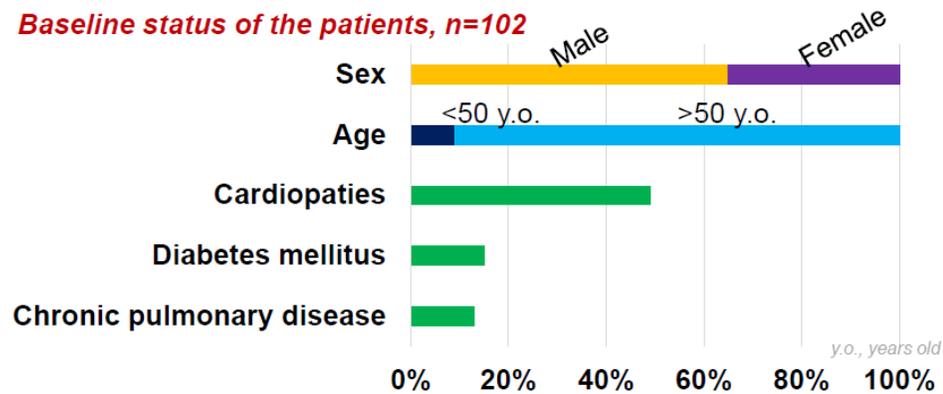
Older age (HR 1.05, $p < 0.001$)
Active malignancy (HR 2.5, $p = 0.007$)

Improved clinical outcome of COVID-19 in haematologic malignancy patients receiving a fourth dose of anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccine: an EPICOVIDEHA report

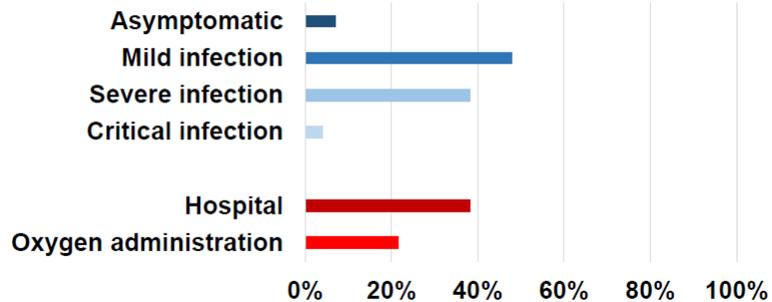
Patients:

102, active HM within the last five years, ≥18 years old, SARS-CoV-2 infection, Active HM within the last five years, reception of a fourth anti-SARS-CoV-2 dose

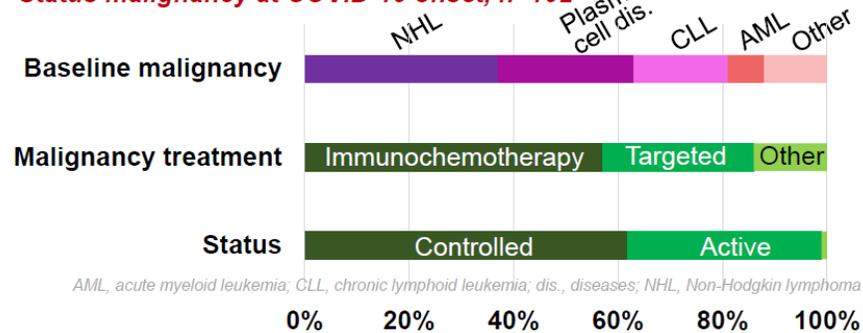
Baseline status of the patients, n=102



COVID-19 severity, n=102

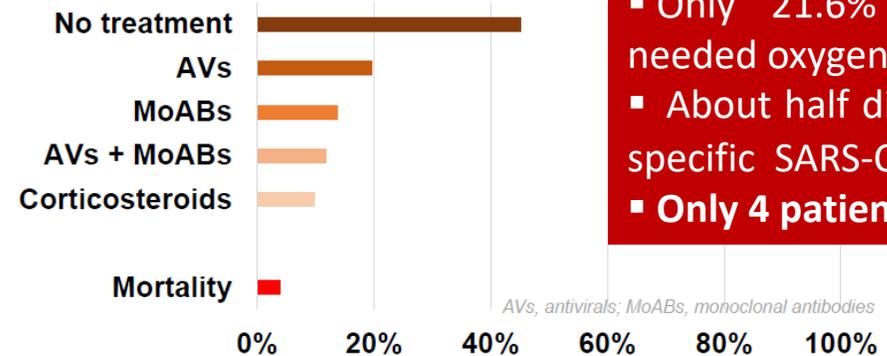


Status malignancy at COVID-19 onset, n=102



AML, acute myeloid leukemia; CLL, chronic lymphoid leukemia; dis., diseases; NHL, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma

COVID-19 treatment and outcome, n=102

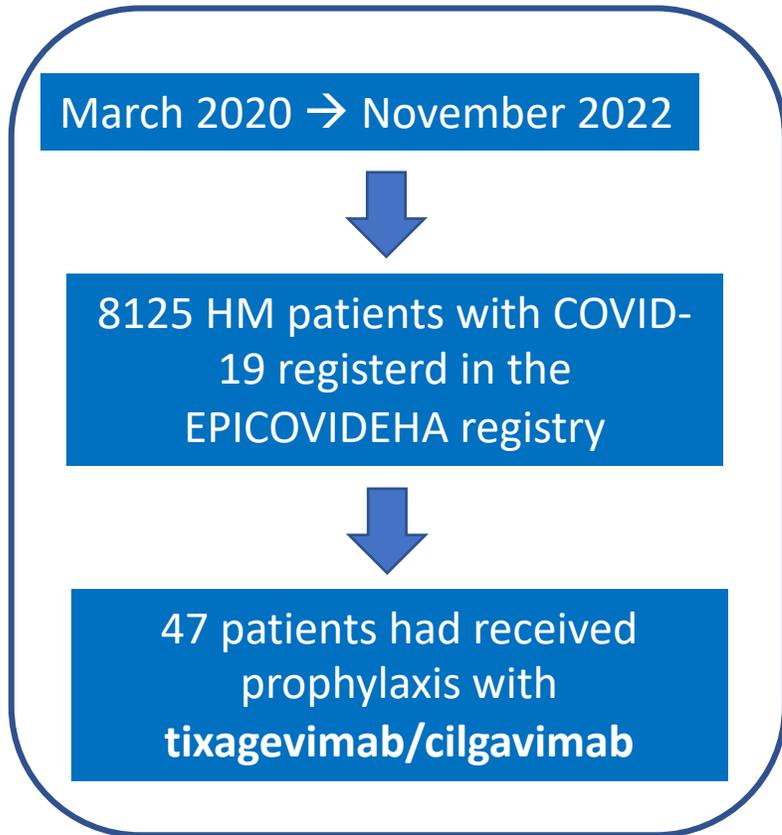


- Only 21.6% of all patients needed oxygen administration
- About half did not receive any specific SARS-CoV-2 treatment
- Only 4 patients (3.9%) died

AVs, antivirals; MoABs, monoclonal antibodies

➤ A second vaccine booster may be of particular importance to protect this particularly vulnerable patient population from severe or potentially life-threatening COVID-19

Passive pre-exposure immunization by Tixagevimab/Cilgavimab in patients with hematological malignancy and COVID-19: matched-paired analysis in the EPICOVIDEHA registry



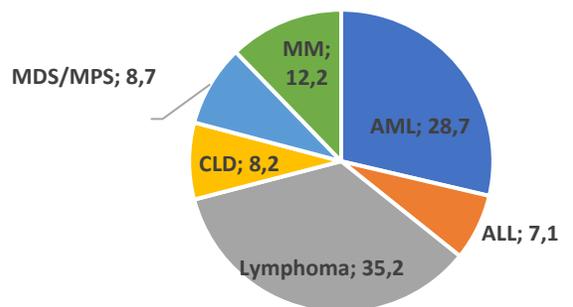
Forty-five (95.7%) of the cases were matched to controls not receiving tixagevimab/cilgavimab to analyze the potential role of this prophylaxis administration in hospitalization, COVID-19 severity and mortality

Variables	Patients receiving tixagevimab/cilgavimab prophylaxis	Controls not receiving tixagevimab/cilgavimab prophylaxis
Hospitalization rate	15.6%	46.7%
Critical COVID-19	6.7%	13.3%
Need for antivirals	37.8%	53.3%
Mortality rate	4.4%	13.3%

Simultaneous onset of haematological malignancy and COVID: an EPICOVIDEHA survey

Cattaneo et al, Cancers 2023

Characteristics of 450 patients



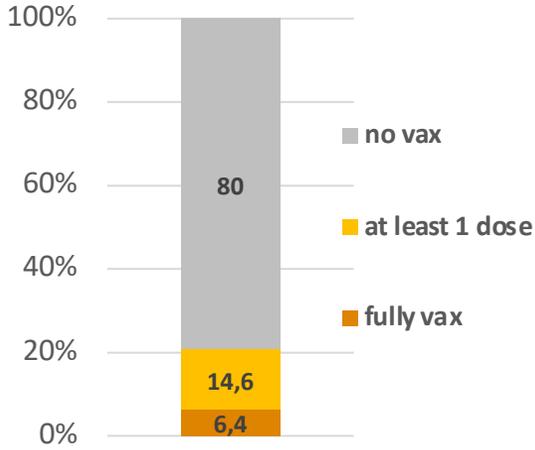
Median time:
-11days (IQR: -21 to -2)

Hematological malignancies dgx

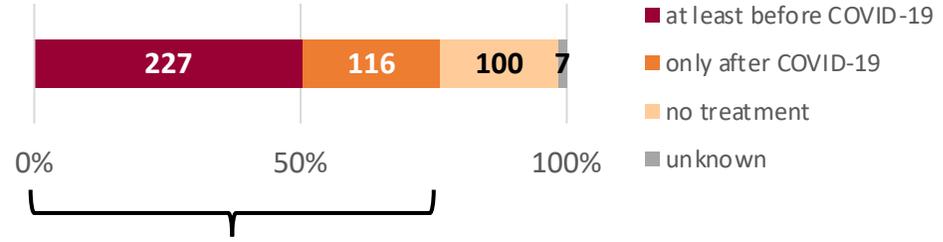


COVID-19 dgx

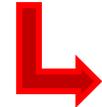
Vaccination status



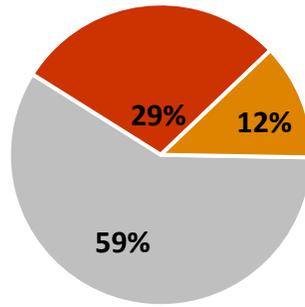
HM treatment



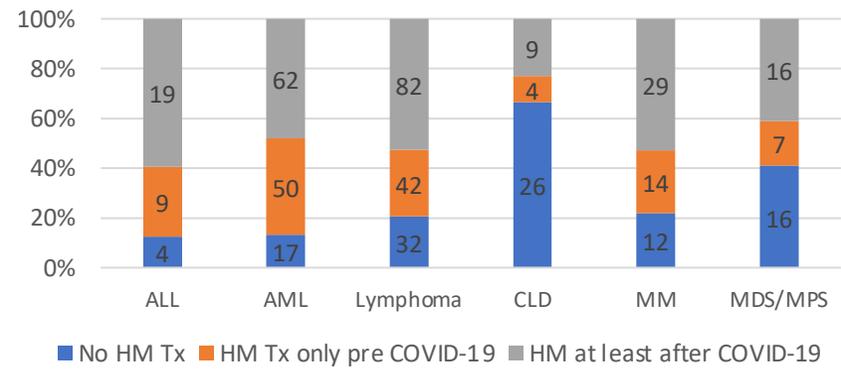
343 pts



Overall response rate

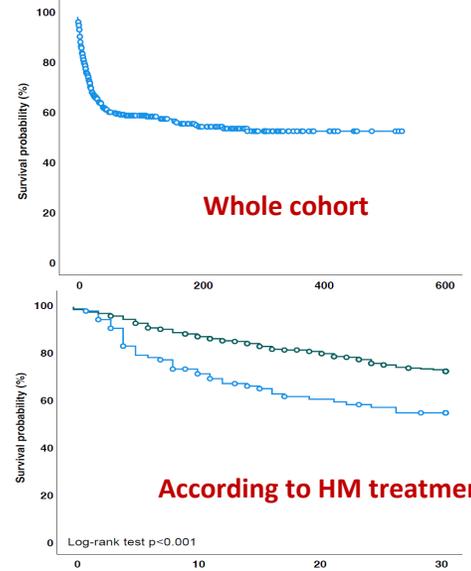
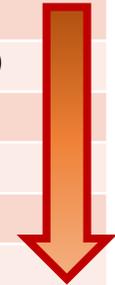


HM treatment according to disease type



Overall survival

HM subtype	30-d mortality (n, %)
Whole cohort	139/450 (30.9%)
AML	71/129 (55%)
MM	25/55 (45.5%)
Lymphoma*	39/156 (25%)
MDS/MPS	9/39 (23.1%)
ALL	6/32 (18.7%)
CLD	7/39 (17.9%)



Number of patients at risk	Days from COVID-19 diagnosis			
	0	10	20	30
No HM treatment	107	68	49	42
HM treatment	341	291	247	201

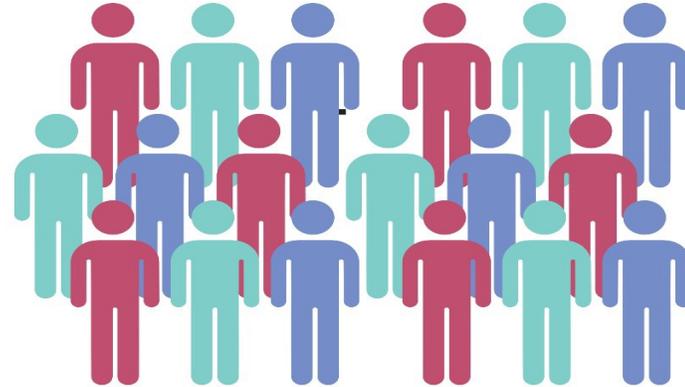
Outcome of COVID-19 in allogeneic stem cell transplant recipients: results from the EPICOVIDEHA registry

326 patients receiving HSCT

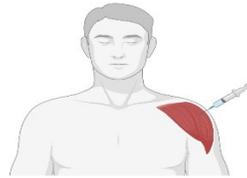
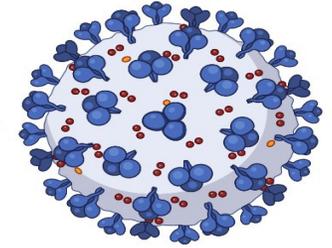
COVID-19 infection:
Jan 2020-March 2022

HSCT characteristics:

- Acute Leukemia: 79%
- MAC: 69%
- HSCT from alternative donor: 71%
- BM stem cells: 88%
- 1 comorbidity: 29%
- 2 comorbidities: 12%
- 3 comorbidities: 6%



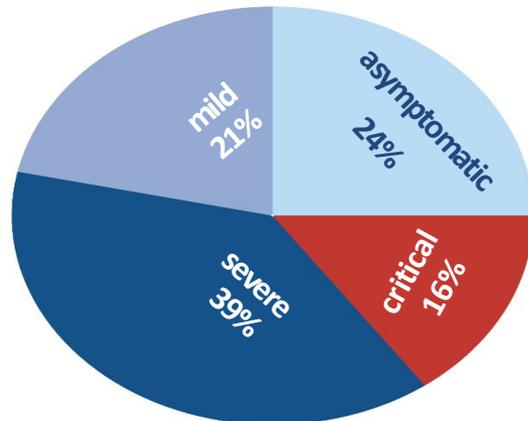
median time HSCT-COVID-19: 268 days



Vaccination before HSCT:
9%

Vaccination before COVID-19:
14%

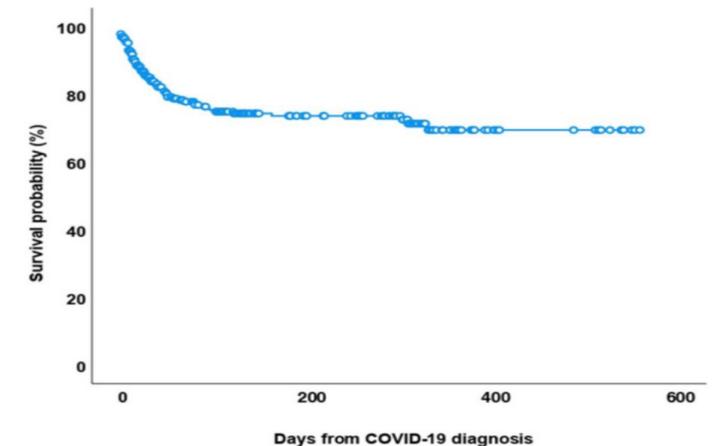
COVID-19 severity:



Risk factors for mortality:

1. age >50 years
2. 3 or more comorbidities
3. active hematologic disease at COVID-19 infection
4. interval <12 months between HSCT and COVID-19
5. severe/critical COVID-19

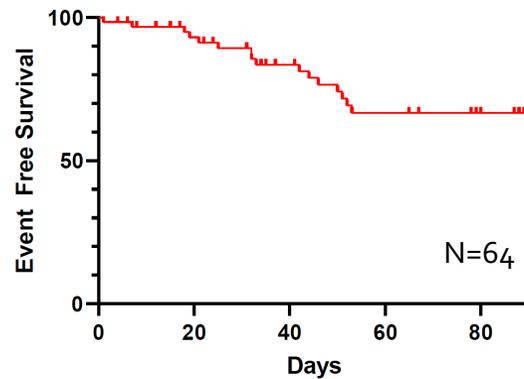
Overall mortality: 21%



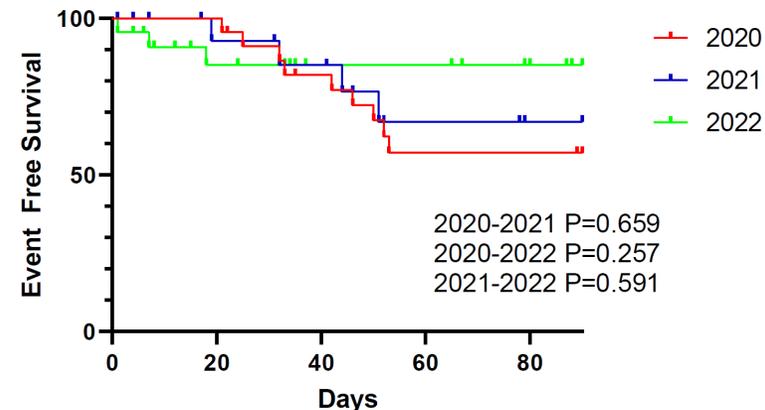
Impact of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination and monoclonal antibodies on outcome post CD19-CAR-T: an EPICOVIDEHA survey

- Survival of CAR T-cell recipients with COVID-19 is better than previously reported
- The combination of vaccination and MoAbs significantly reduces the risk of death due to COVID-19

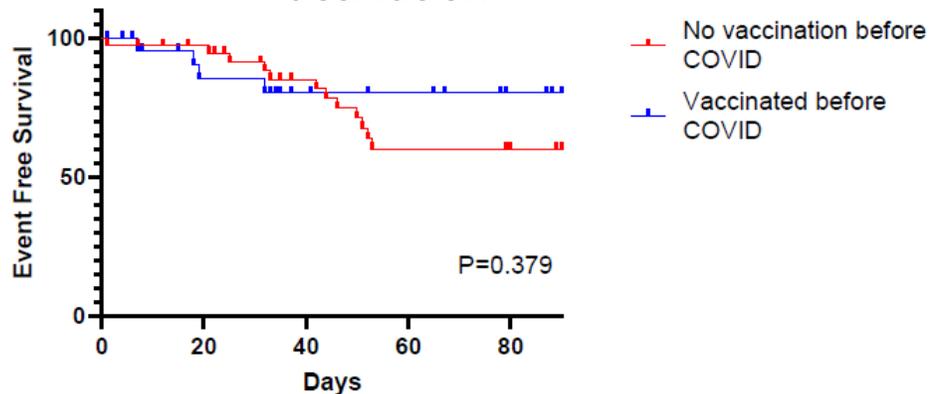
Overall survival



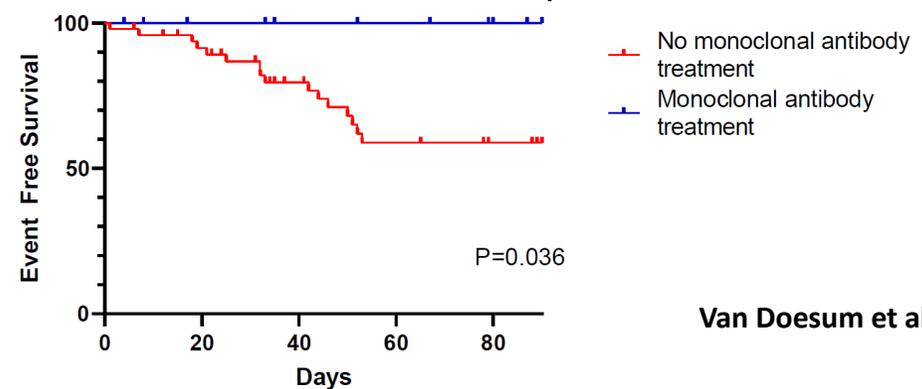
Year of infection



Vaccination

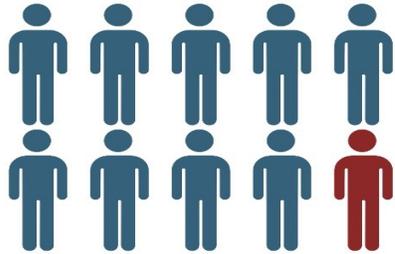


Monoclonal antibody treatment



COVID-19 and CAR T cells: a report on current challenges and future directions from the EPICOVIDEHA survey by EHA-IDWP

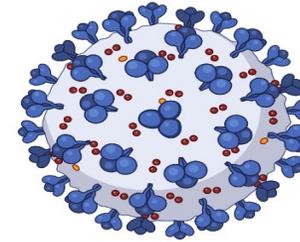
459 patients receiving CAR-T cells



18 European centers
Jan 2020 - Feb 2021

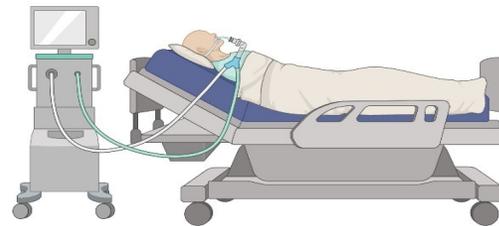
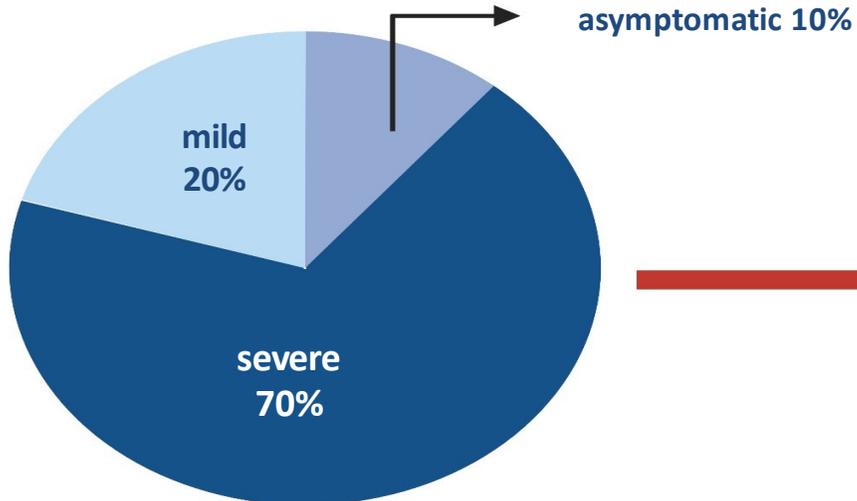
median time: 169 days

COVID-19 prevalence: 4.8%
(30 patients)



LBCL: 28
Myeloma: 1
ALL: 1

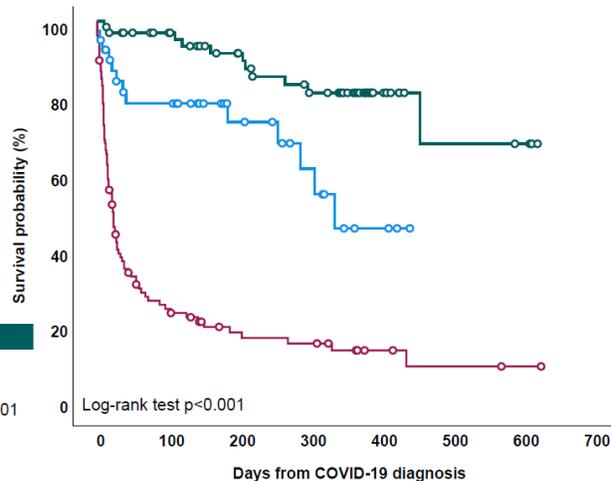
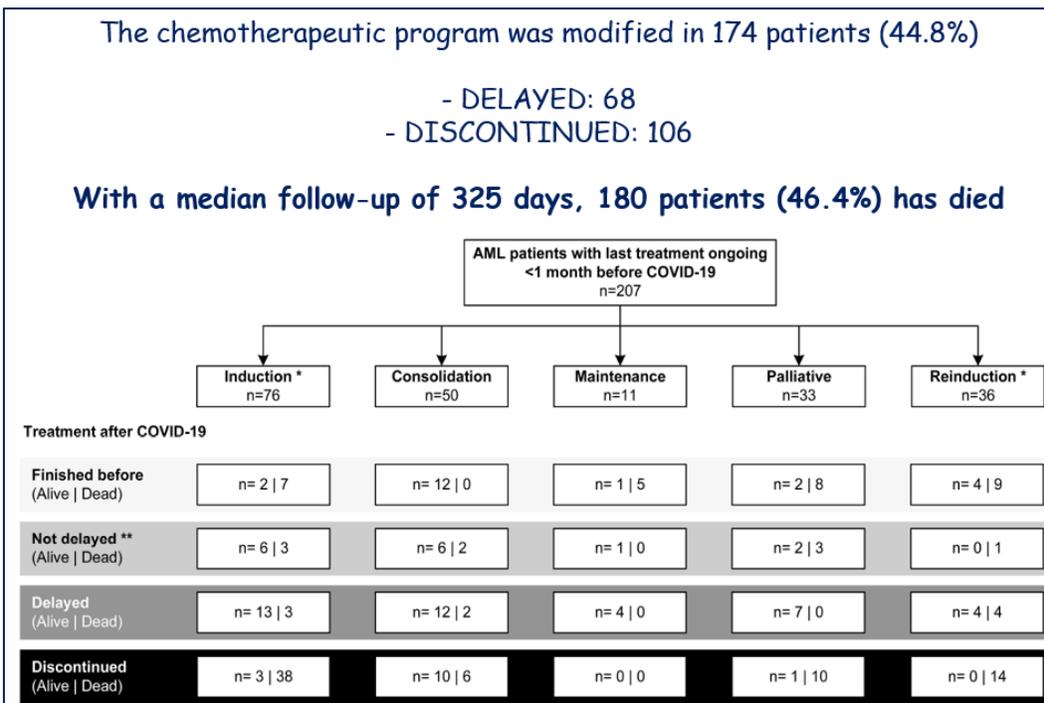
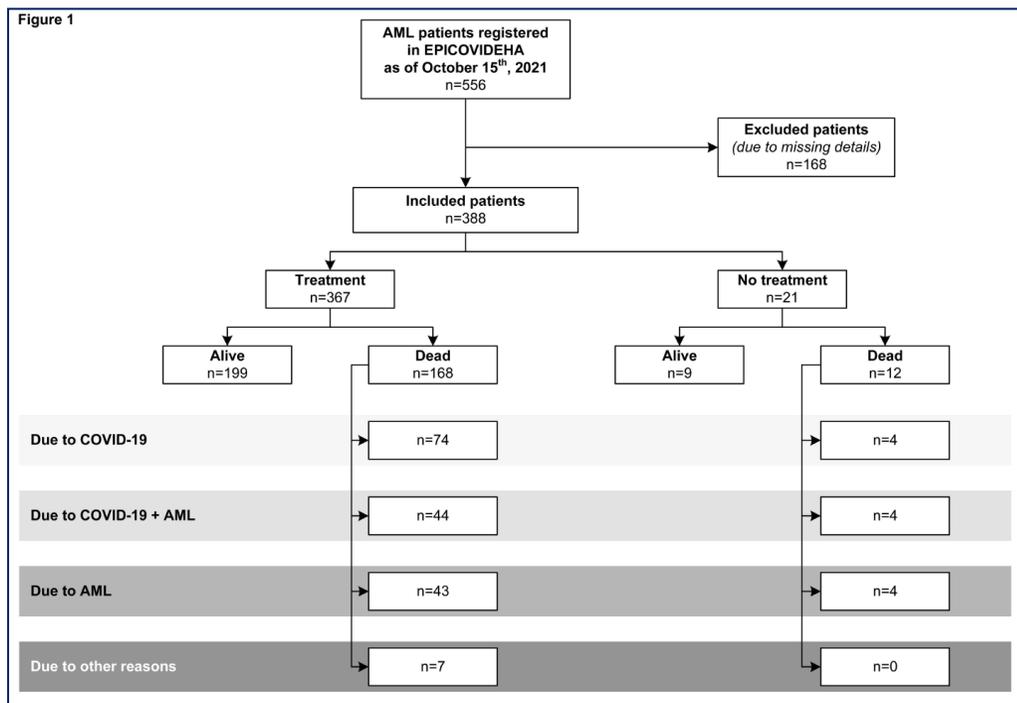
Tisagenlecleucel: 16
Axicabtagene: 13
Anti-BCMA: 1



ICU 43%

Overall mortality: 50%
COVID-19 related mortality: 33%

COVID-19 in adult acute myeloid leukemia patients: a long-term follow-up study from the European Hematology Association survey (EPICOVIDEHA)

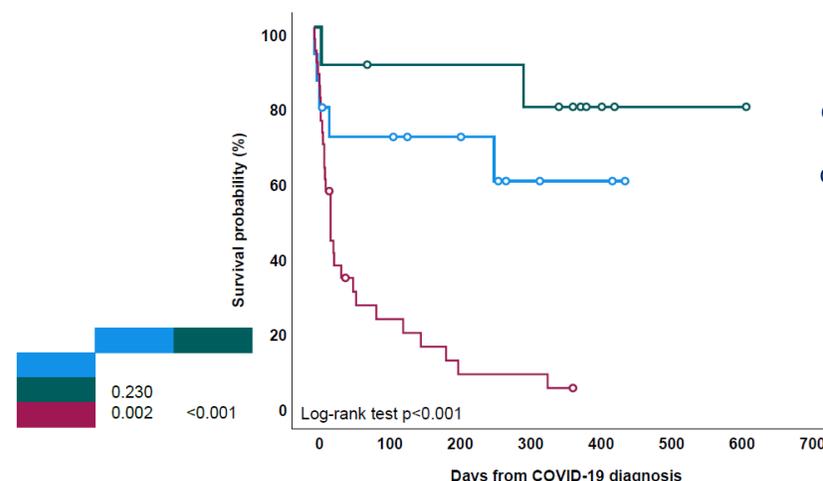


A significantly higher survival was observed in patients with chemotherapy delay as opposed to those patients with no delay or with chemotherapy discontinuation

Tx delayed

Tx not delayed, not discontinued

Tx discontinued



Similar data were obtained if we consider only the 79 patients with a simultaneous AML and COVID-19 diagnosis: better survival in patients with chemotherapy delay

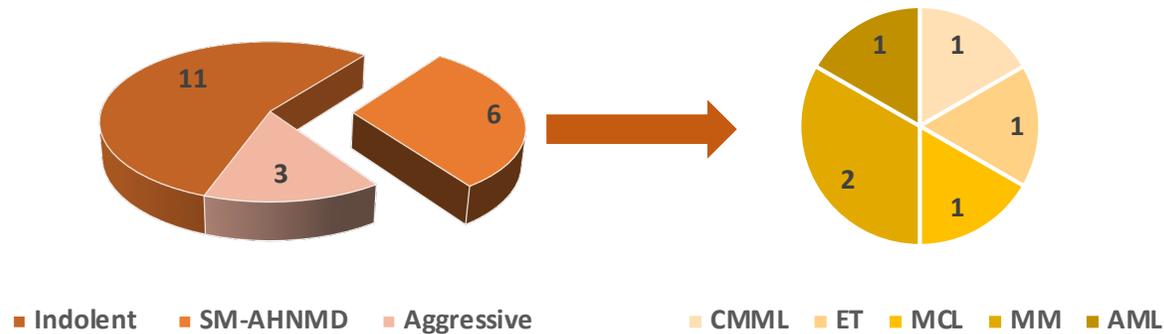
Tx delayed

Tx not delayed, not discontinued

Tx discontinued

SARS-CoV-2 Infection among Patients with Systemic Mastocytosis: An EPICOVIDEHA Report

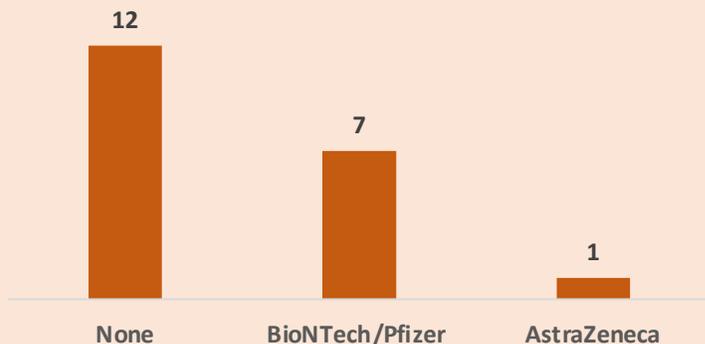
20 cases
M/F ratio 11/9
Median age: 59 yo (24-78)



SM treatment before COVID-19

None	8
Midostaurin	7
Anti mediators	3
Allogeneic HSCT	2
Cladribin	1
AML induction	1
Hydroxyurea	1
Radiation therapy	1

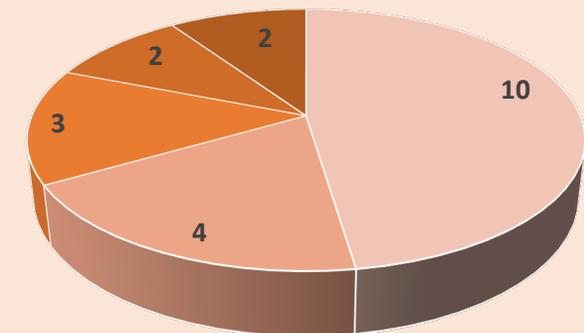
VACCINATION STATUS



Only 4 inpatients for severe/critical infections

1 patient died from SARS-CoV-2 infections during concomitant immunosuppressive therapy

COVID TREATMENT



□ None □ Supportive □ Antiviral □ Monoclonal antibody □ ICU supportive

No significant increase of mediator release symptoms during SARS-CoV-2 infection or its treatment was reported. Neither mastocytosis itself nor concomitant therapy seem to have an impact on clinical course of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Vaccination was safe, as nobody reported adverse events after appropriate premedication.

COVID-19 and hairy-cell leukemia: an EPICOVIDEHA survey

40 patients with HCL patients out of 2,422 EPICOVIDEHA

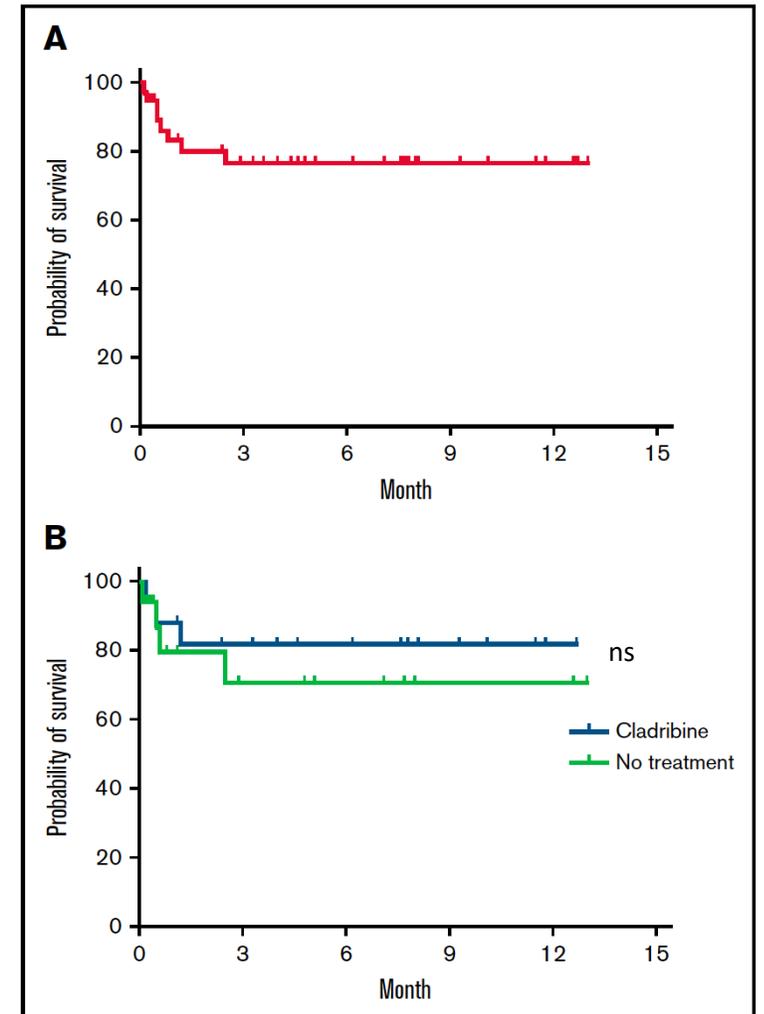
patients with lymphoid malignancy: 1,7% prevalence

Severity :

- 16% of asymptomatic & mild
- 48% of severe cases
- 35% of critical cases

25% of death rate :

- 90% due to COVID-19
- No death among 5 vaccinated patients
- No clear difference between those that received Cladribine and the others
- Concomitant diagnosis : 7 patients (18%), most of them
 - No preexisting condition for
 - Required a hospitalization and 2 in the ICU
 - All cases were diagnosed because of blood counts showing cytopenia & enlarged spleen
 - HCL was confirmed by flow cytometry or PCR (BRAF V600E)



OUTCOMES OF SARS-COV-2 INFECTION IN PH-NEG CHRONIC MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS: RESULTS FROM THE EPICOVIDEHA REGISTRY

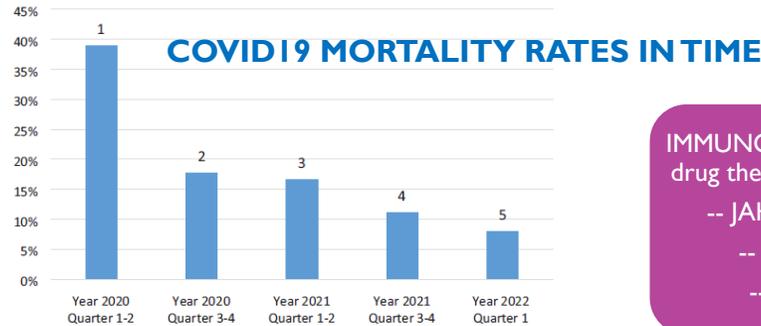
3801 hemonc patients

398 MPN patients

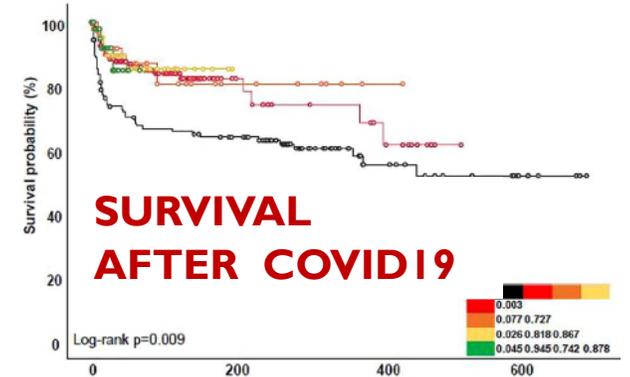
216 pts admitted to hospital (53 ICU)

68 deaths (attributable to COVID19)

Ther Adv Hematol
2023, Vol. 14: 1-15
DOI: 10.1177/
20406207231154706



IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE drug therapy (121 pts):
-- JAK inhibitors
-- steroids
-- IMiDS



COX REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF FATALITY RATE

Age ≥ 70 years

• HR 2.285 (95% CI 1.408-3.708)

Immunosuppressive drug therapy

• HR 2.19 (95% CI 1.394-3.443)

Myelofibrosis

• HR 2.15 (95% CI 1.061-4.363)

Comorbidities

• ≥ 3 comorbidities HR 4,723 (95% CI 2.338-9.540)

• 2 comorbidities HR 2.078 (95% CI 1.039-4.157)

Pandemic wave

• 2022 Q1 HR .349 (95% CI 0.122-0.995)

• 2020 Q3-4 HR 0.584 (95% CI 0.359-0.951)

Number of patients at risk	Days from COVID-19 diagnosis			
	0	200	400	600
2020 Q1-Q2	125	68	19	7
2020 Q3-Q4	152	21	10	0
2021 Q1-Q2	24	7	1	0
2021 Q3-Q4	43	0	0	0
2022 Q1	50	0	0	0

LOGISTIC REGRESSION OF HOSPITALIZATION RATE

Age ≥ 70 years

• OR 2.894 (95% CI 1.782-4.700)

Immunosuppressive drug therapy

• OR 2.428 (95% CI 1.458-4.043)

Myelofibrosis

• HR 2.15 (95% CI 1.061-4.363)

Comorbidities

• ≥ 3 comorbidities OR 3.653 (95% CI 1.121-6.273)

Pandemic wave

• 2022 Q1 OR 0.119 (95% CI 0.054-0.469)

• 2020 Q3-4 OR 0,266 (95% CI 0.151-0.469)

B-cell malignancies treated with targeted drugs and SARS-CoV-2 infection: A European Hematology Association Survey (EPICOVIDEHA)

Infante et al, Front Oncol 2022

- 366 patients
 - 204 (55.7%) CLL
 - 162 (44.3%) NHL
- Median age 68 (range 25-96), 60.7% (n= 222) male
- 132 (33.1%) ≥ 2 comorbidities
- Only 16%** received ≥ 2 doses of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine at the onset of COVID-19
- 277 (75.7%)** hospitalized with median stay of 16 days (range 1-137)

Severe COVID-19 observed in **47.5%** (n=174) patients, including **21.9%** (n=80) admitted to ICU
44% of the ICU patients underwent invasive MV
Median ICU stay: 9 days (range 6-14)

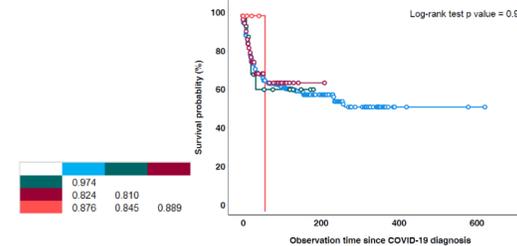
Presence of comorbidities associated with severe COVID-19 infection ($p= 0.002$)
Entire Cohort
CLL, NHL and ITKs subsets

Severe infection more frequent in the 1st vs more recent COVID-19 waves ($p=0.001$)

No association:
Age (either $>65 / >75$)
Type of targeted drug therapy
Time from last HM treatment to COVID-19

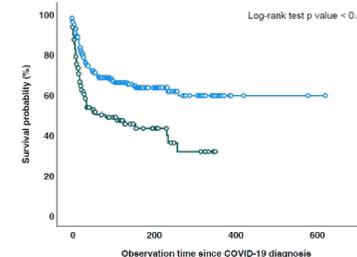
No significant risk factor for severe COVID-19 was in patients receiving BCL-2 inhibitors + anti-CD20 monoclonal antibodies

A) Survival probability by number of vaccine doses administered before COVID-19

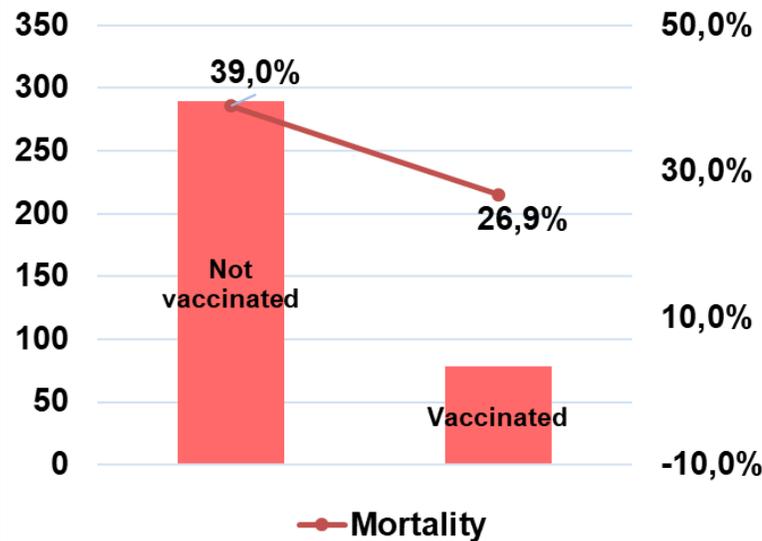


Number of patients at risk	0	200	400	600
Not vaccinated	286	68	3	1
One dose	19	0	0	0
Two doses	54	1	0	0
Three doses	5	0	0	0

B) Survival probability by patient age



Number of patients at risk	0	200	400	600
<75 years old	251	51	3	1
≥ 75 years old	113	18	0	0



24.3% (89/366) day-30 mortality rate

36.6% (134/366) overall mortality rate

COVID-19: 92 patients (68.7%)

B-cell malignancies: 14 patients (10.4%)

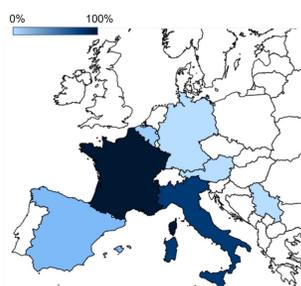
Both: 28 patients (20.9%)

Median follow-up: 70.5 days (range 0-609 days)

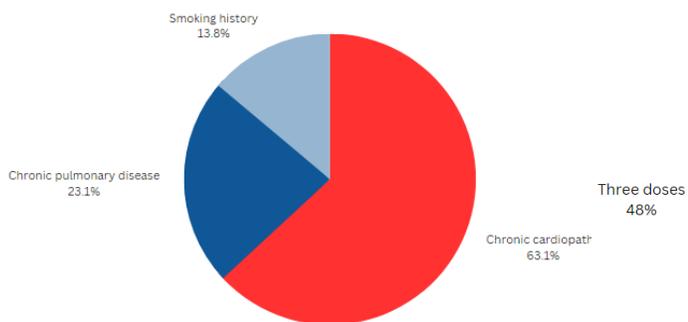
Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir in COVID-19 patients with haematological malignancies: A report from the EPICOVIDEHA registry

Patients:

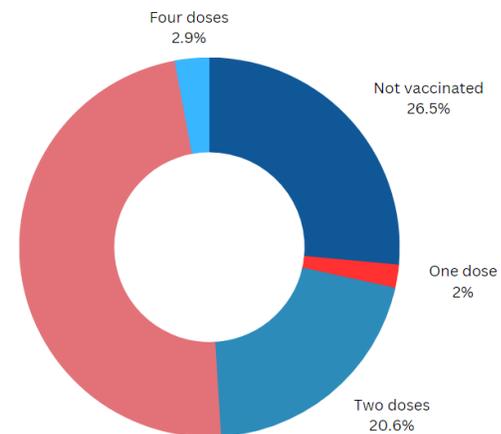
102, active HM within the last five years, ≥18 years old, SARS-CoV-2 infection



Main comorbidities:

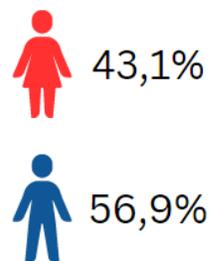
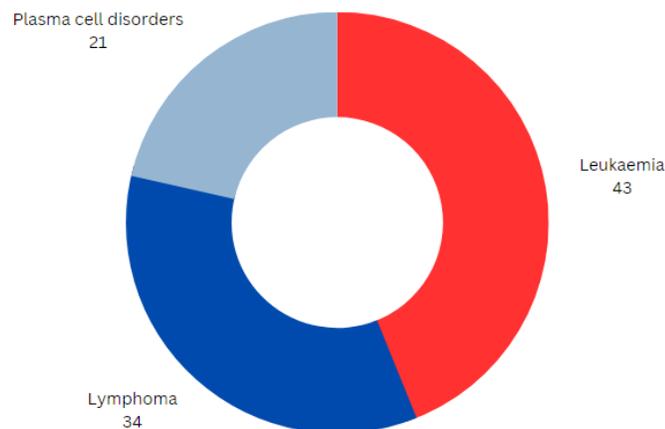


SARS-CoV-2 vaccination status:



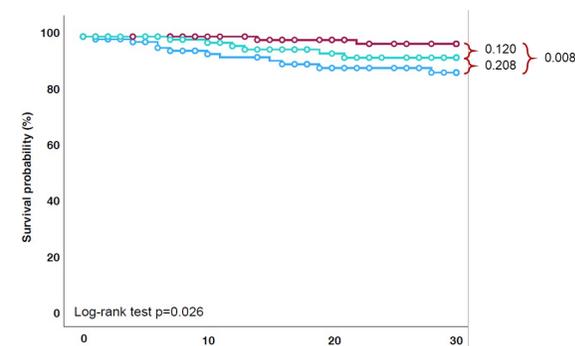
- Patients with extrapulmonary symptoms at COVID-19 onset and a 2nd vaccine dose are more prone to receive nirmatrelvir/ritonavir as opposed to those with chronic pulmonary disease and obesity
- Mortality in patients with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir is lower as compared to that in other treatment schemes, no statistical significance was observed

Main baseline malignancies:



Median Age: 66

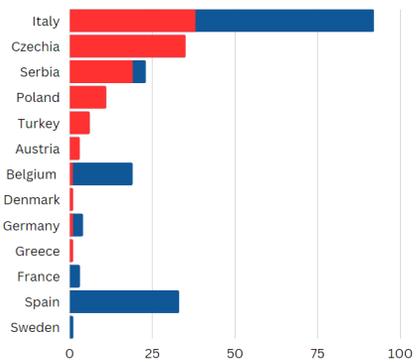
Day 30 survival probability:



Molnupiravir compared to nirmatrelvir/ritonavir for COVID-19 in high-risk patients with haematological malignancy in Europe: a matched-paired analysis from the EPICOVIDEHA registry

Patients:

116 per treatment, active HM within the last five years, ≥ 18 years old, SARS-CoV-2 infection

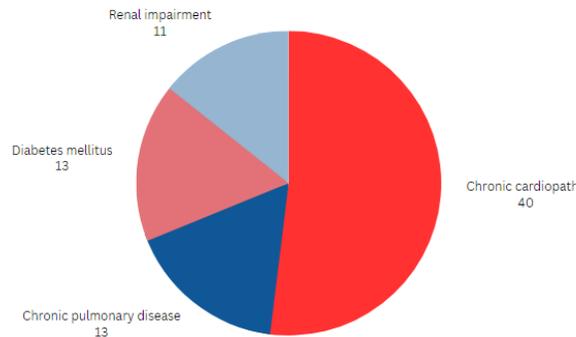


41,4%

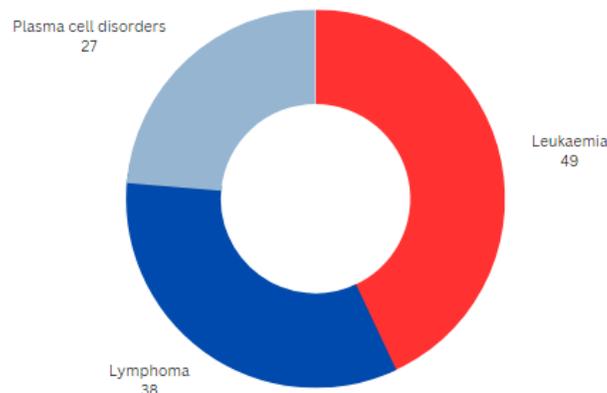
58,6%

Median Age: 64

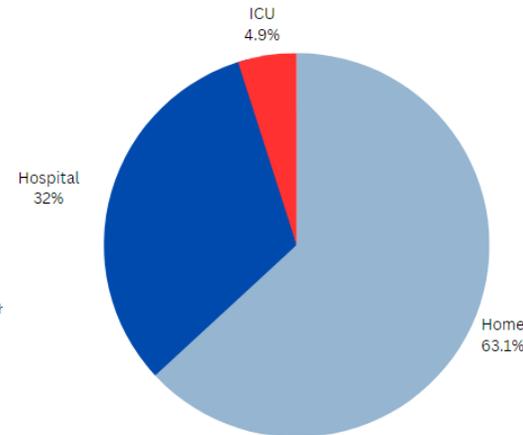
Main comorbidities:



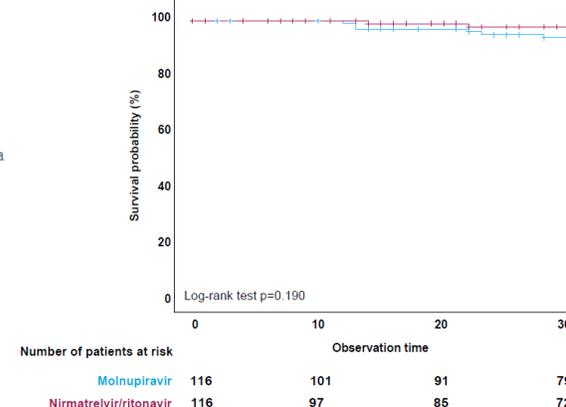
Main baseline malignancies:



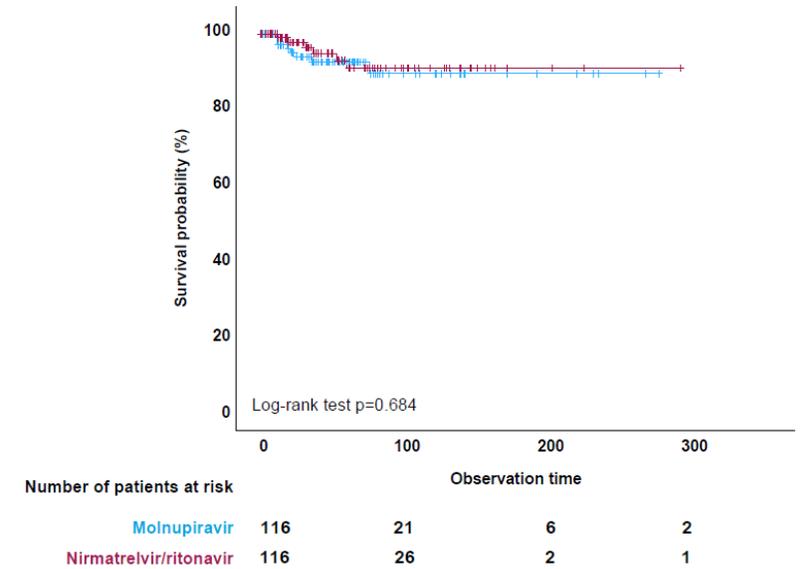
Stay during SARS-CoV-2 infection:



Day 30 survival probability:



Overall survival probability:



- Patients with baseline haematological malignancies at high-risk for severe COVID-19 benefit from the administration of molnupiravir.
- Molnupiravir is an alternative to nirmatrelvir/ritonavir in patients with limited treatment options.

Need for ICU and outcome of critically ill patients with COVID-19 and haematological malignancies: results from the EPICOVIDEHA survey

Patients

1080/6934 (16%) patients with haematological malignancy developed a critical SARS-CoV-2 infection (39%, invasive mechanical ventilation; 49% with non-invasive ventilation)

(A) Mortality rate of patients admitted in ICU per haematological malignancy status at COVID-19 onset

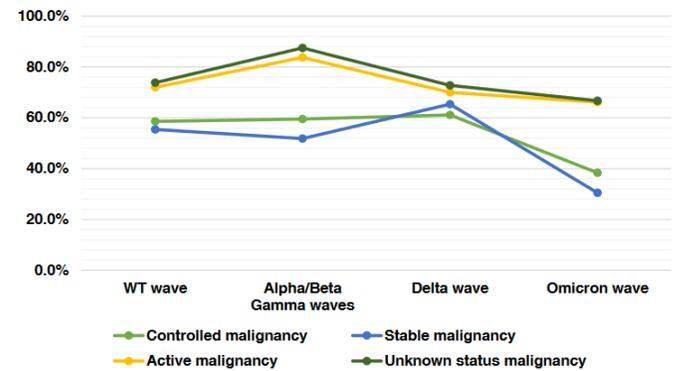
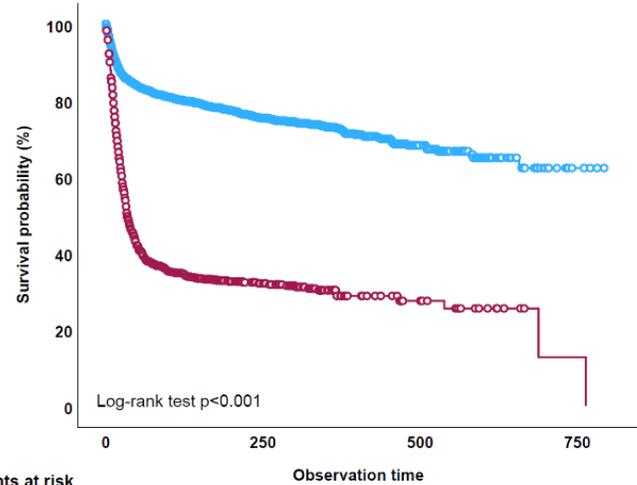
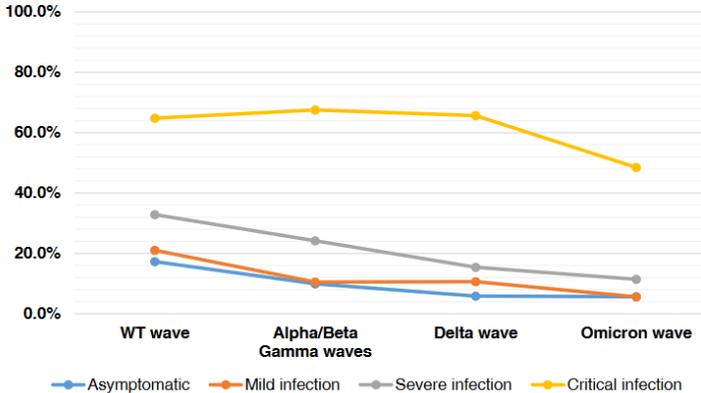


Figure 2. Survival probability of patients with haematological malignancy and COVID-19, by need for intensive care.



	0	250	500	750
Non ICU	5816	977	141	3
ICU	1070	117	17	1

(B) Mortality rate of patients per COVID-19 severity and pandemic wave



- Variables associated to ICU admission
 - Increased age
 - Obesity
 - Lymphopenia
 - Active malignancy
 - No COVID-19 vaccination
 - WT/Alpha/Beta(Delta)
 - Pulmonary symptoms
- Variables associated to mortality in ICU
 - Increased age
 - Diabetes mellitus, liver disease, renal impairment
 - Neutropenia
 - Baseline leukemia
 - Treatment scheme without monoclonal antibodies

- Patients with haematological malignancy are at high risk of critical COVID-19
- ICU is associated with substantial high mortality rates
- Patients with haematological malignancy need special awareness to avoid the risk of critical COVID-19

Oncoming publications



EPICOVIDEHA

*Epidemiology of COVID-19 infection
in patients with hematological malignancies:
A European Haematology Association Survey*

- ✓ *Aged patients*
- ✓ *Chronic myeloid leukemia*
- ✓ *Corticosteroid treatment for COVID-19*
- ✓ *ICU*
- ✓ *Plasma treatment for COVID-19*
- ✓ *Multiple myeloma*
- ✓ *Plasma treatment for COVID-19*

Epidemiology of COVID-19 infection, community-acquired respiratory viral infections and seasonal influenza in patients with hematological malignancies: A European Haematology Association Survey - EPIFLUEHA

Promotor

Prof. Livio Pagano (livio.pagano@unicatt.it)
Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Rome, Italy)

Steering Committee

Dr. Alessandro Busca
Ospedale San Giovanni
Battista (Turin, Italy)

Prof. Oliver A. Cornely
University Hospital
Cologne (Germany)

Prof. Raul Córdoba-Masculano
Fundación Jimenez Díaz
University Hospital
(Madrid, Spain)

Prof. Martin Hoenigl
Medical University
Graz (Graz, Austria)

Dr. Marianna Criscuolo
Fondazione A. Gemelli
(Rome, Italy)

Dr. Shaimma El-Ashwah
Mansoura University
(Al Manşūrah, Egypt)

Dr. Francesca Farina
Ospedale S. Raffaele
(Milan, Italy)

Dr. Federico Itri
S. Luigi Gonzaga Hospital
(Orbassano, Italy)

Project Manager

Dr. Jon Salmanton-García
(jon.salmanton-garcia@uk-koeln.de)
University Hospital Cologne (Germany)

Project Assistant

Dr. Francesco Marchesi
(francesco.marchesi@ifo.it)
Regina Elena National Cancer Institute
(Rome, Italy)