

Mental Health and Quality of Life for Cancer Patients before and during a Global Pandemic

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Before the pandemic, one in three cancer survivors were expected to suffer significant depression or anxiety during their cancer journey. Covid has amplified the stress of a diagnosis through delays in diagnosis, workup and treatment, social isolation and uncertainty about the future outcomes. Add worries about dying from the virus, and we have a silent and growing epidemic of patient and family members suffering alone at home.

In this call we hope to shed light on the mental health crisis in cancer care both related to and transcending the current pandemic. We're asking which individuals are at highest risk? How can we effectively screen for these patients/families? How do we integrate screening programs into our busy clinics? Which interventions work? What are the role of education programs? How do we use technology to support our patients? Which programs are cost-effective? How can we draw on peers, mentors and community-based organizations to support survivors? How can researchers translate their findings more quickly into cancer healthcare systems?

