

A closer look at the impact of COVID-19 on cardio-oncology

February 5 2021, by Elisabeth Reitman



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Cancer survivors have an increased risk of mortality from heart failure, coronary heart disease, and stroke. Lauren Baldassarre, MD, serves as the director of the Yale Cardio-Oncology program, which seeks to prevent and treat cardiovascular complications as a result of cancer treatment, and provide clinicians with tools to improve patient care in

everyday practice.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Baldassarre and members of the Cardio-Oncology and Imaging Councils of the American College of Cardiology shared recommendations regarding the cardiovascular care of COVID-19-positive patients. Specific concerns are also raised for patients infected with COVID-19 who are undergoing cancer treatment. The paper was published Nov. 12 in *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

The authors outline strategies to optimize cardiac screening and monitoring. In addition, the document encourages the use of multimodality imaging and biomarkers to evaluate [cardiovascular complications](#) in cancer patients with COVID-19. Lastly, ongoing collaboration between cardiologists and oncologists is a necessity. "Although this era poses difficulty to the care of these complex patients, it has also challenged practitioners to develop unique and efficient ways to communicate, work together, and approach [patient care](#)," the authors conclude.

A second paper published Nov. 27 in the journal *Cardio-Oncology* evaluates the availability of medical care and supplies for patients with pre-existing cardiovascular disease and cancer. Baldassarre and members of the Cardio-Oncology International Collaborative Network conducted a multinational survey regarding preparedness during a health care crisis.

More information: Lauren A Baldassarre et al. Cardiovascular Care of the Oncology Patient During COVID-19: An Expert Consensus Document From the ACC Cardio-Oncology and Imaging Councils, *JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute* (2020). [DOI: 10.1093/jnci/djaa177](https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djaa177)

Perspectives on the COVID-19 pandemic impact on cardio-oncology: results from the COVID-19 International Collaborative Network survey, *Cardio-Oncology* (2020). [DOI: 10.1186/s40959-020-00085-5](https://doi.org/10.1186/s40959-020-00085-5)

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