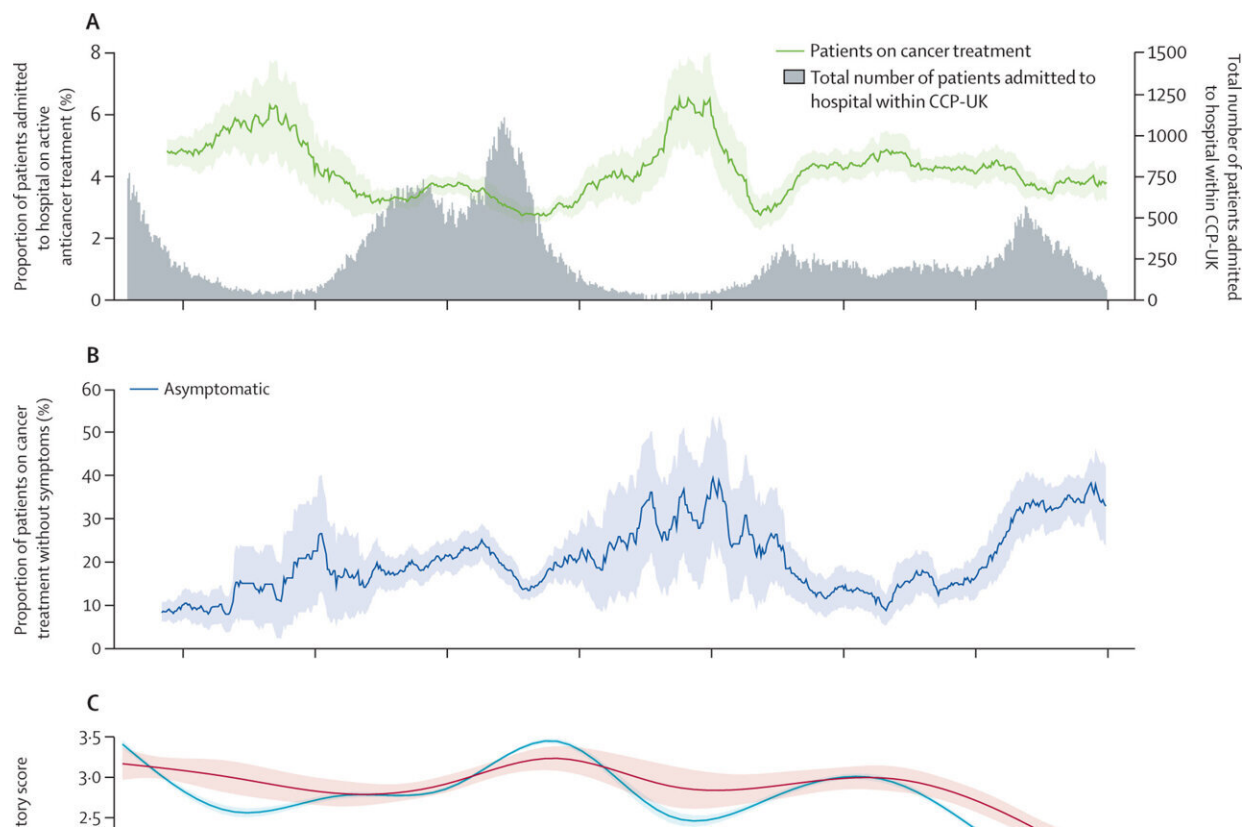


COVID-19 poses greater risk of death to those with cancer, large study finds

April 15 2024



Admission numbers, symptoms, and illness severity and mortality over time (A) Admission numbers over time by cancer minus frequency and total numbers. (B) Proportion of patients on cancer treatment who were symptomatic over time. (C) Illness severity over time, measured by the inflammatory components of the 4C score. (D) Mortality rate over time in patients having recent cancer treatment (red line) and patients with no history of cancer (blue line). (E) The percentage difference in mortality between patients on cancer treatment and patients without cancer. Credit: *The Lancet Oncology* (2024). DOI:

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Researchers from the University of Liverpool and the University of Edinburgh have found evidence that shows that people with cancer face a higher risk of mortality from COVID-19 compared with those without cancer.

In a paper [published](#) in *The Lancet Oncology*, researchers show that during the pandemic, patients aged under 50 undergoing cancer treatment had the highest risk of in-hospital death compared to patients of the same age without cancer. Led by Professor Carlo Palmieri and Professor Lance Turtle, the study's findings show continued action is needed to mitigate the poor outcomes in patients with cancer.

One of the largest studies of its kind, it compared more than 6,500 cancer patients receiving treatment with more than 177,000 non-cancer patients. In all, 31.7% of cancer treatment patients died at 30 days, significantly more than for non-cancer patients, where 18% died 30 days after contracting COVID-19.

Significantly, the evidence shows that younger patients (

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