

## What are the differences in the clinical course of COVID-19 between patients undergoing chemotherapy and otherwise healthy individuals? [Update]

<https://covid19evidencereviews.saskhealthauthority.ca/en/permalink/coviddoc248>

**Document Type:** Rapid Review  
**Review Code:** EOC062201v2 RR  
**Question Submitted:** June 22, 2020  
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**Research Team:** EOC

### Updated Key Findings:

Generally speaking, data indicate that adult cancer patients and those who have recently received or are receiving anti-cancer therapy are at a higher risk of severe outcomes and death resulting from COVID-19 compared to those without cancer. However, more data are beginning to elucidate the nuances of these risks depending on patient specific factors.

Limited data indicate that pediatric cancer patients are not at a high level of risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19.

Limited evidence indicates some differences in the course and severity of SARS-CoV-2 infection depending on the type of immunosuppressive therapy a patient receives.

### Key Findings:

Generally speaking, data indicate that adult cancer patients and those who have recently received or are receiving anti-cancer therapy are at a higher risk of severe outcomes and death resulting from COVID-19 compared to those without cancer.

Pediatric cancer populations may not be at the same level of risk as adult populations.

There is not enough evidence at this time to determine if there are differences in the course of SARS-CoV-2 infection in patients receiving chemotherapy vs. those who are not aside from outcomes and severity.

**Category:** Clinical Presentation

**Subject:** Chemotherapy  
Cancer  
Comorbidities  
Natural History

**Population:** All

**Priority Level:** Level 3 completed within 2-3 days

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**Review History:** EOC062201 RR: June 29, 2020

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Table: EOC062201v2 RR Table

Evidence Search Report: EOC062201v2-01 ESR


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