

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON GENITOURINARY CANCERS DETECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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ABSTRACT

Introduction. The new severe acute respiratory syndrome SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) has emerged as an alarming disease since December 2019, creating a global health crisis. All over the World, oncological services were suspended, and millions of patients were unable to carry out in time vital investigations or treatments. **The aim.** Were to provide an evidence-informed review of genitourinary cancer detection during COVID-19 pandemic in the Republic of Moldova. **Material and methods.** We analyzed the data from the National Cancer Registry of all newly diagnosed genitourinary cancers from 2019 to 2022. The total number of registered patients and stage were

compared in the targeted periods. **Results.** The overall number of patients decreased from 2019 to 2020 by 15.2% (n = 1184 vs. 1004), then raised by 8% in 2021 and exploded by 30% in 2022 (n = 1092 and 1435). The main increase was observed for renal (26.16%, n = 223 in 2020 vs. 302 in 2022), prostate (34.2%, n = 485 in 2020 vs. 737 in 2022), and penis (38.9%, n = 11 in 2020 vs. 18 in 2022). No significant differences were observed in the incidence of bladder (5.43%, n = 244 in 2020 vs. 258 in 2022) and testicular cancer (7.7%, n = 24 in 2020 vs. 26 in 2022). **Conclusions.** The Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on the detection of genitourinary tumors, initially leading to a decrease in detection and later to an explosion in the number of cases.