

# Understanding the experiences of people with lung cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic and exploring their preferences for care delivery: Final results

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## Introduction

- Lung cancer patients are particularly vulnerable in the context of COVID-19
- Cancer diagnosis and management have been affected
- Changes in outpatient care with increased remote consultations due to COVID-19

## Aims

- The study aims are to explore:
- 1) The impact of COVID-19 on patients' psychological well-being
  - 2) Patient experience of the new outpatient care pathways
  - 3) Patient preference of communication

## Methods

- Mixed methods: Postal questionnaires (n= 883) and follow-up semi-structured telephone interviews
- Inclusion: Lung cancer patients on active surveillance or active anti-cancer treatments

## Quantitative Results

The majority of patients did not feel the pandemic delayed their cancer diagnosis (82%) or treatment (83%).

Patients felt supported by: specialist services (88%); friends/family (86%); community services (59%).

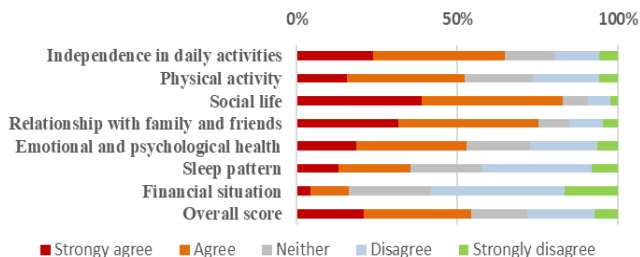
282 survey respondents and 54% of patients reported a considerable negative impact from the pandemic: social life (82%) and relationship with family/friends (75%) were most heavily impacted.

Patient preference for face-to-face appointments varied depending on the nature of the appointment:

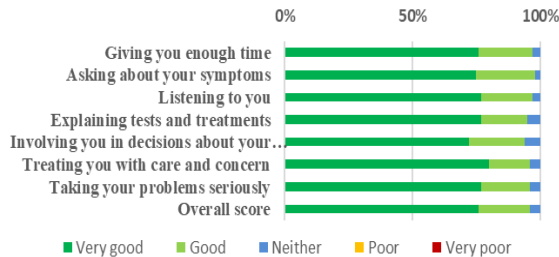
- 93% for their first appointment
- 64% when discussing imaging results
- 60% for reviews during anti-cancer treatments.

Overall 95% were happy with oncology team communication.

Impact of COVID-19 on daily life



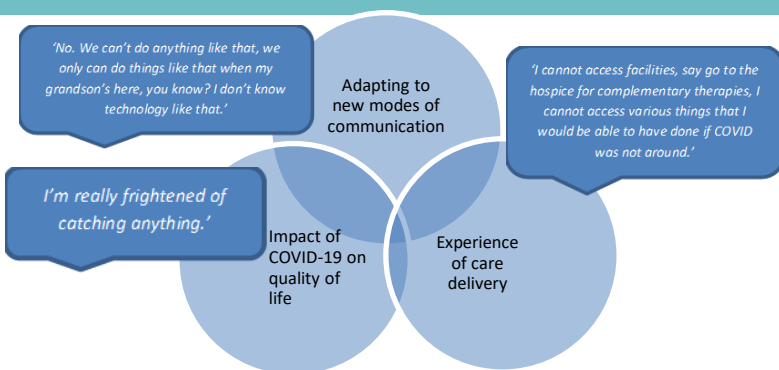
Quality of communication during COVID-19



## Qualitative Results

A total of 30 patients were interviewed. Thematic analysis identified three key themes:

- Adapting to new modes of communication
- Impact on experience of care delivery during the pandemic
- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on quality of life



## Discussion and Conclusion

Despite changes in care delivery, most lung cancer patients felt that quality of care was not significantly impacted. Patients' quality of life has been impacted and patients may require additional support. Decisions regarding future outpatient care should be tailored to individual circumstances and preferences. Whilst some patients valued being less rushed, and reducing travel, some suggested the telephone is less personal and may instead prefer video calls or face to face. As pandemic restrictions ease, there is an opportunity to take on board both positive and negative feedback to help shape evolving patient care.