

COVID-19 & Cancer Care

Media Briefing
March 30, 2021

Featuring
experts from:



Today's Speakers



**Thomas J.
Eichler, MD, FASTRO**

Chair, American Society for
Radiation Oncology (ASTRO)
Board of Directors



**Karen M.
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Executive Director, Meharry-
Vanderbilt Alliance;
ASTRO Board of Directors



**Shelley Fuld
Nasso, MPP**

CEO, National Coalition for
Cancer Survivorship

COVID-19 & Radiation Oncology: Results of a National Physician Survey

Dr. Thomas J. Eichler

Chair, American Society for Radiation Oncology
(ASTRO) Board of Directors



 [@ASTRO_org](#)
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Radiation Oncology & COVID-19

1.9 million
new cancer cases
estimated in 2021

More than half
will be treated with
radiation therapy



ASTRO
cancer specialists
who treat
patients with
radiation
therapies

Physician surveys to
gauge COVID-19
impact and response:

April 2020

May 2020

June 2020

January 2021



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Survey: Radiation Oncology & COVID-19

Physician surveys to gauge COVID-19 impact and response:

April 2020

May 2020

June 2020

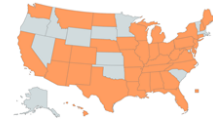
January 2021

117 physician leaders at U.S. radiation therapy clinics

Online survey collected Jan. 15 to Feb. 7, 2021

Respondents:

- 55% in private practice, 44% academic
- 52% practice in a major metro area (pop. >1 million)
- 37 states represented



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Doctors report that **people with cancer are facing additional burden** due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

66% said new patients are presenting with **more advanced cancers**

73% said patients **missed cancer screenings** because of the pandemic

66% said patients experienced **treatment interruptions**

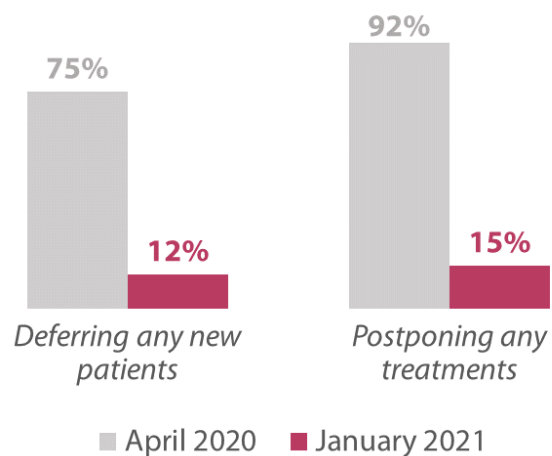
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Enhanced
**safety
protocols
remain
widespread**
at radiation
therapy
clinics.

100%	Social distancing in the clinic
99%	Staff routinely wear masks
98%	Patients routinely wear masks
97%	Staff who show symptoms are tested
94%	Patients are screened at the door
93%	Increased clinic sterilization
80%	Staff wear face shields for treatments
73%	Visitors are not allowed

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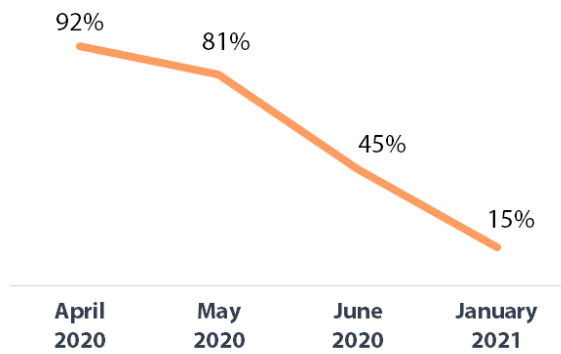
Treatment
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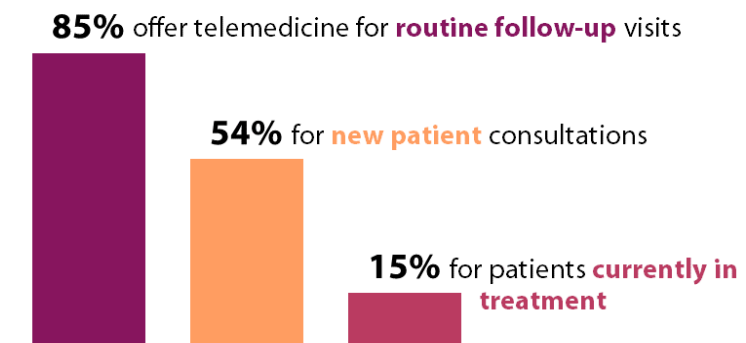
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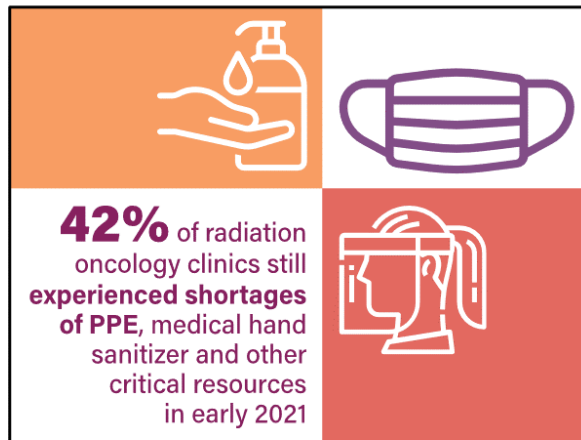
Clinics that Postponed Some Treatments Due to the Pandemic



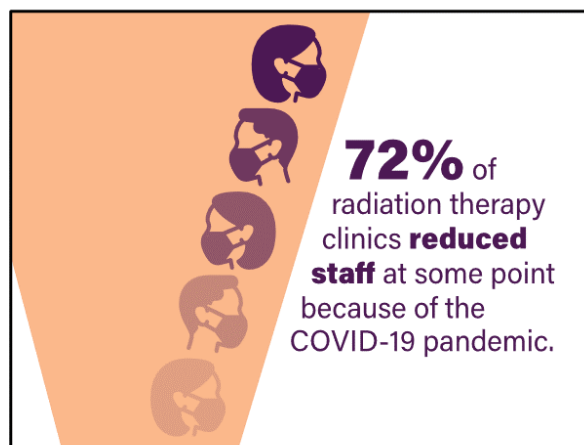
Telemedicine remains popular in radiation therapy clinics.



Clinics still report **difficulty accessing PPE** and other critical supplies.

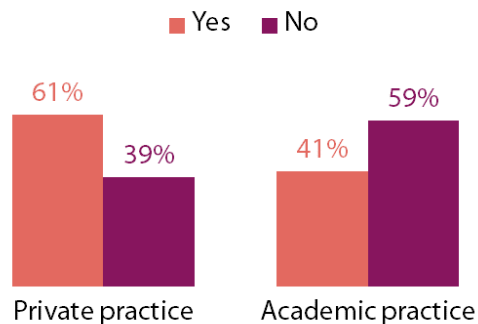


Clinics continue to face operational challenges caused by the pandemic.



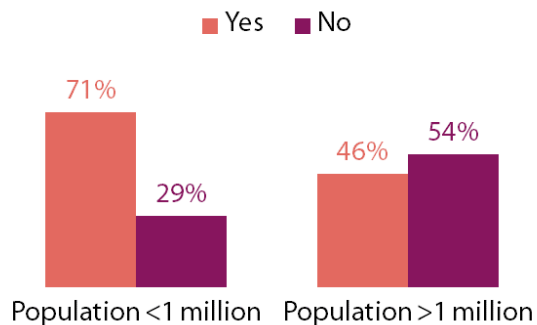
Most doctors said **access to the COVID-19 vaccine** was a barrier to vaccination efforts at their clinics.

Access to the vaccine has been a barrier to COVID-19 vaccination in my practice.



Most doctors also said **COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy** among staff and patients was a barrier.

Vaccine hesitancy has been a barrier to COVID-19 vaccination of staff in my practice.



Moving Forward

- Efforts to encourage communities to **resume cancer screening, detection and treatment**
- Modern treatments may offset some threat from **advanced-stage cancers**.
- Support for **COVID-19 vaccination** for cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and providers

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Dr. Karen M. Winkfield

Member, American Society for Radiation
Oncology (ASTRO) Board of Directors
Executive Director, Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance

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Shelley Fuld Nasso

CEO, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship



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For More Information

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Radiation Therapy Info



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