



ImmunoScience Academy

Partnering for Education & Optimizing Treatment in ImmunoScience

www.immunoscienceacademy.be

3rd National ImmunoScience Academy Meeting goes virtual on COVID-19

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Webinar | 19.00–21.00

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Short and long-term consequences of COVID-19 on cancer management

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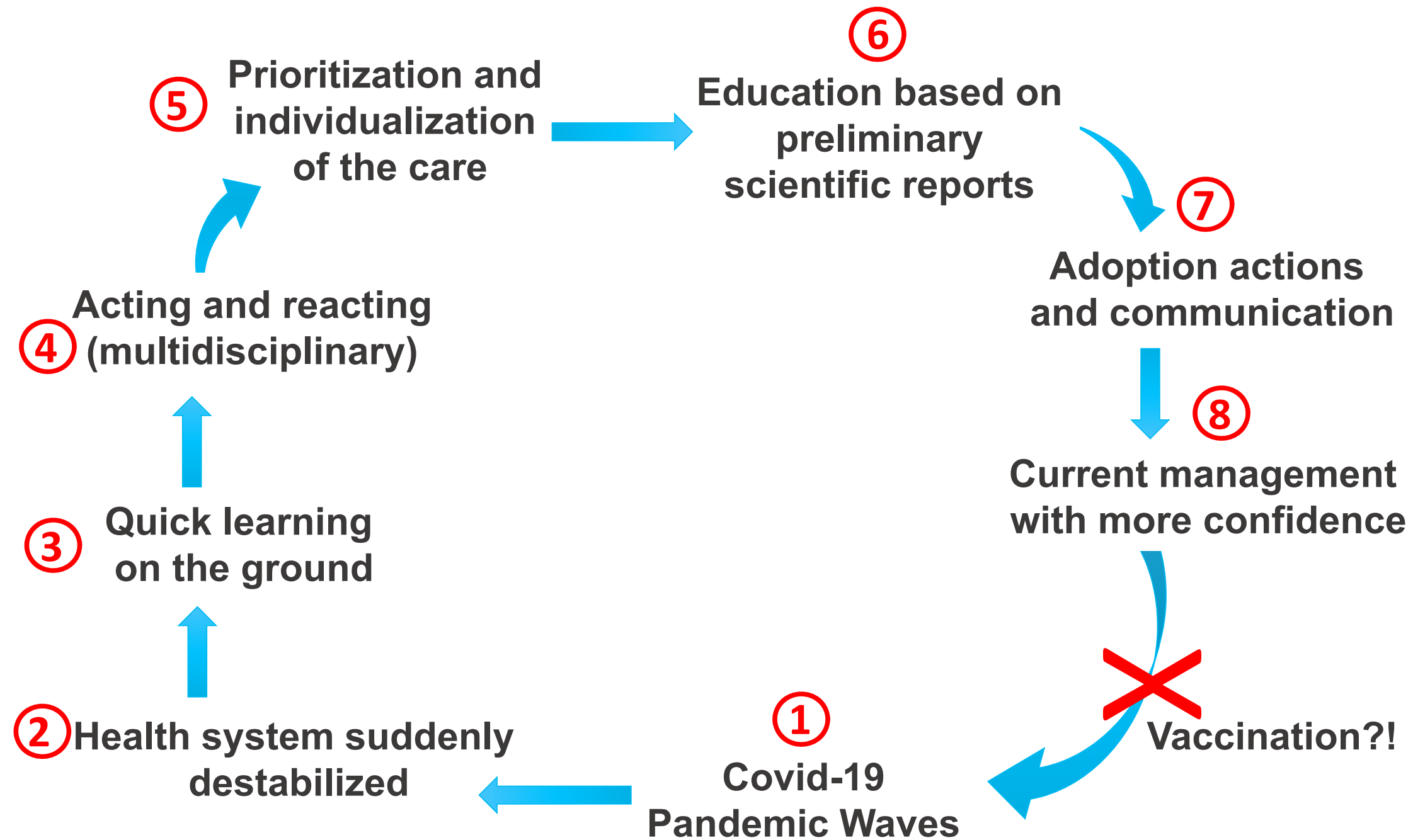
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Disclosures

- ▶ Advisory role, research grants to my Institute, Speaker fees:
- ▶ Roche, Lilly, Amgen, Eisai, BMS, Pfizer, Novartis, MSD, Genomic Health, Ipsen, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Leo Pharma, Merck, Daiichi

Covid-19 pandemic was a serious threat
for cancer patients, caregivers, hospitals
in an **unpredictable** manner!

The pathway of Covid-19 and cancer management during 2020



Short-term implications of Covid-19 on cancer patients

- ▶ All levels of management of cancer pts (diagnosis, treatment, FU...) were disturbed
 - Adaptation of treatment protocols
 - Elaboration of recommendations (ESMO, BSMO)
- ▶ Outcome of some pts (infected or not) deteriorated with fatalities
- ▶ Communication with pts (and family) was altered (shared decision process downgraded)

Survey: Study sites and participants

- ▶ 109 representatives from oncology centres in 18 countries filled out the survey

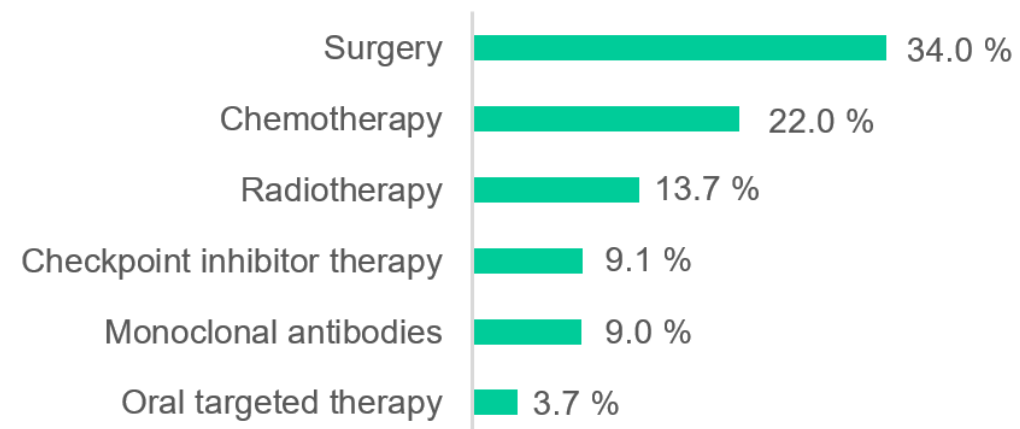


Years worked in oncology (including residency) median (IQR)	20 (10.5-25)
Type of hospital	
Academic hospital	68 (62.4)
Community hospital	32 (29.6)
Other	9 (8.3)
Type of oncological centre	
General hospital with oncology unit	72 (66.1)
Specialized separate anticancer center	35 (32.1)
Other	2 (1.8)
Main Specialization	
Breast Cancer	66 (60.6)
Lung Cancer	9 (8.3)
Gastrointestinal cancer	11 (10.1)
Gynecological cancer	3 (2.7)
Skin cancer	3 (2.7)
Urogenital cancer	10 (9.2)
Head and neck cancer	3 (2.7)
Other	4 (3.7)

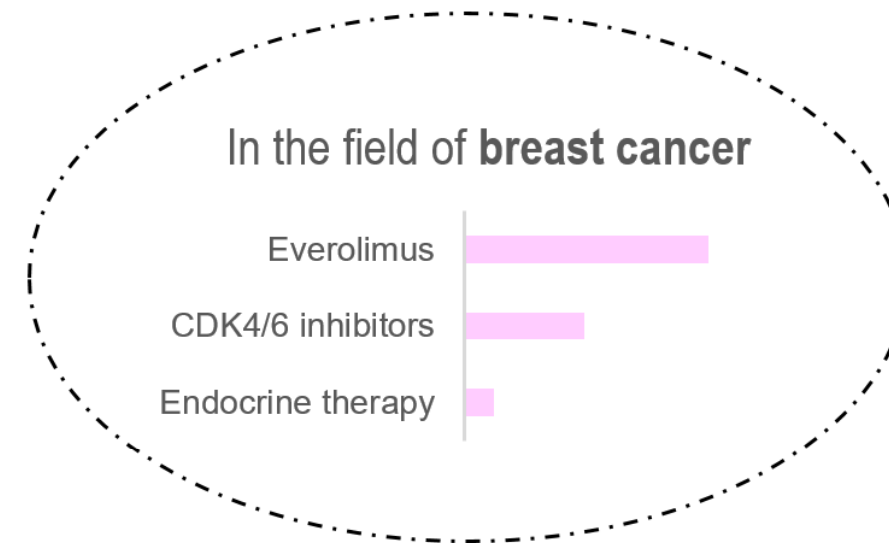
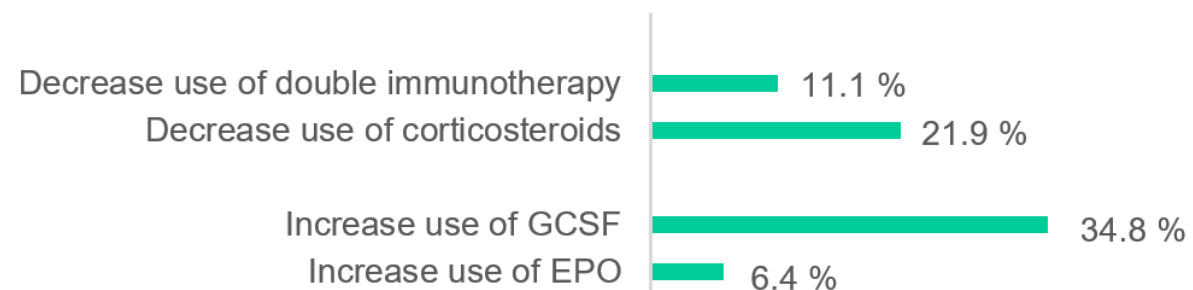
Sex	
Male	67 (61.5)
Female	42 (38.5)
Age median (IQR)	48.5 (38-55.75)

Results: impact on oncology treatments

Treatment modalities mostly **affected** by the pandemic
(cancellation/delay in more than 10 % of all patients)



Treatment adaptations

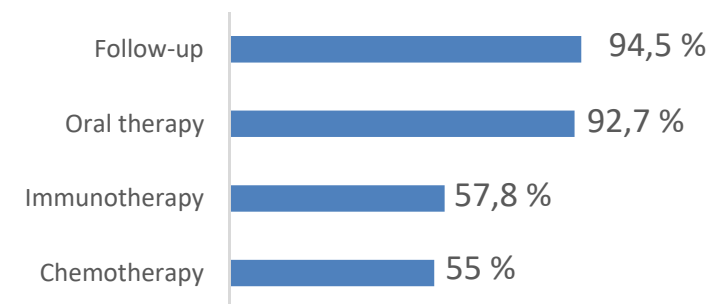


Earlier cessation of palliative treatment was observed in 32.1 % of centers.

64.2 % of participants agreed that **undertreatment** is a major concern.

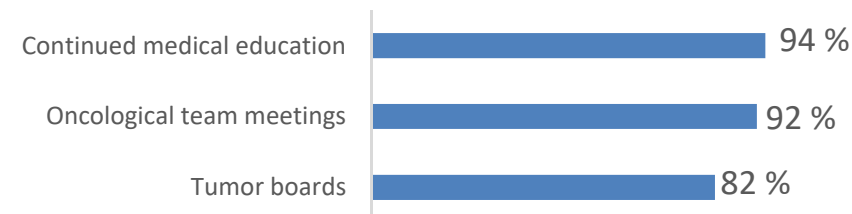
Results: Teleconsultations and virtual meetings

At the pandemic peak, **teleconsultations** were performed for



Approximately **82%** of participants estimate that they will **continue to use telemedicine.**

Most participants reported more frequent use of **virtual meetings**



But **45 %** disagree that virtual meetings are an acceptable alternative **to live international meetings**



Short-term consequences of Covid-19 on medical workers and institutions

- ▶ Dynamic and continual organization of patients care in the hospital was mandatory (during waves and in between)
- ▶ The impact of Covid-19 on caregivers was deep but variable (health, well being, daily work, education...)
- ▶ It has been a clear impact on clinical research activities:
 - Decreased pts accrual
 - Adapted guidance of the management of clinical trials (famhp;EMA)

Institutions organization and Covid-19

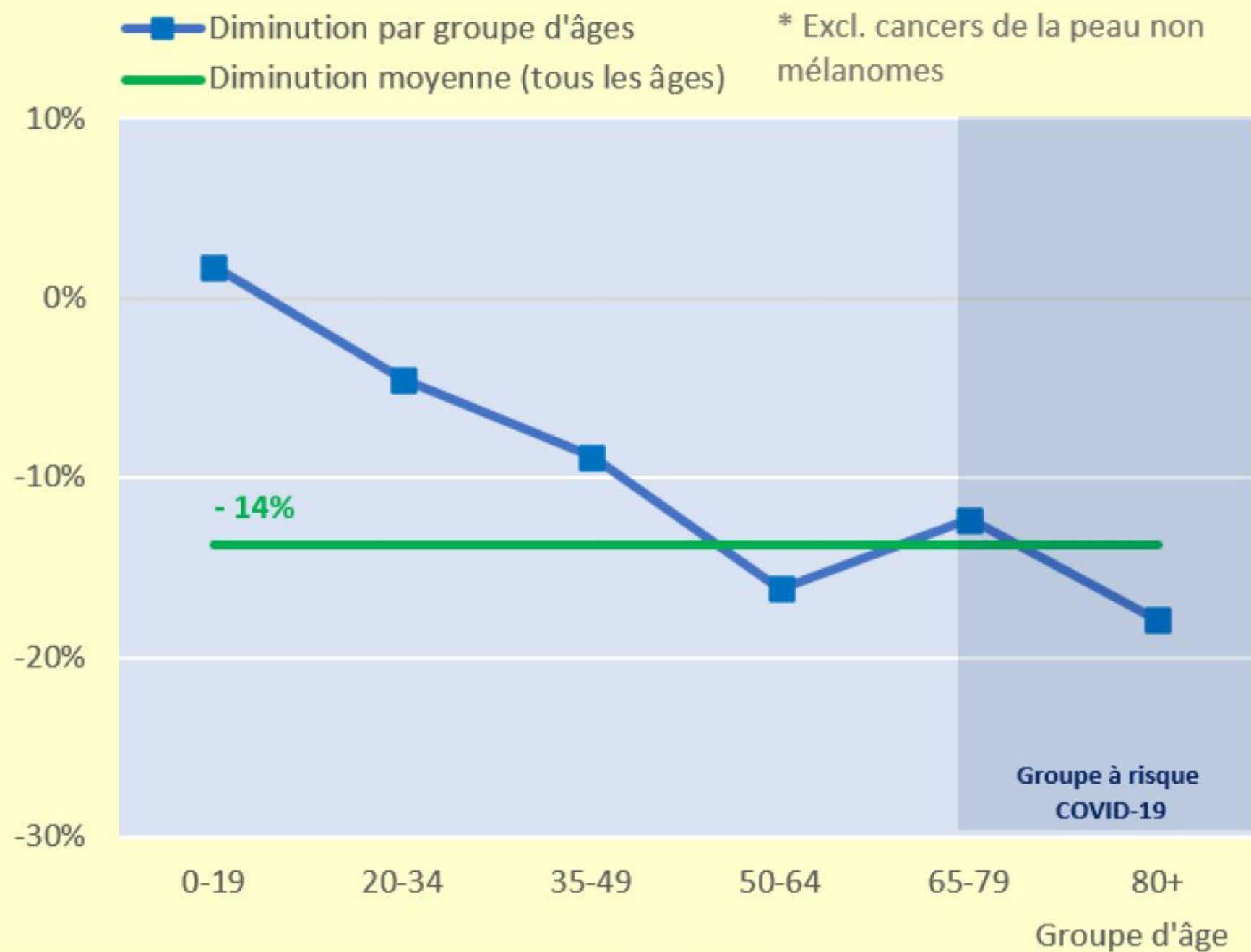
- ▶ The needs to make quick decisions that impacted the entire hospital (daily-work, capacity, research, education...)
- ▶ The necessity to prioritize the type of patients to be managed
- ▶ Strong collaboration between available teams was a reality and needed
- ▶ Transferring part of the cancer care to the home (during lockdown): role of digitalization
- ▶ Optimization of communication (at all levels)

Long-term consequences of Covid-19 on cancer management

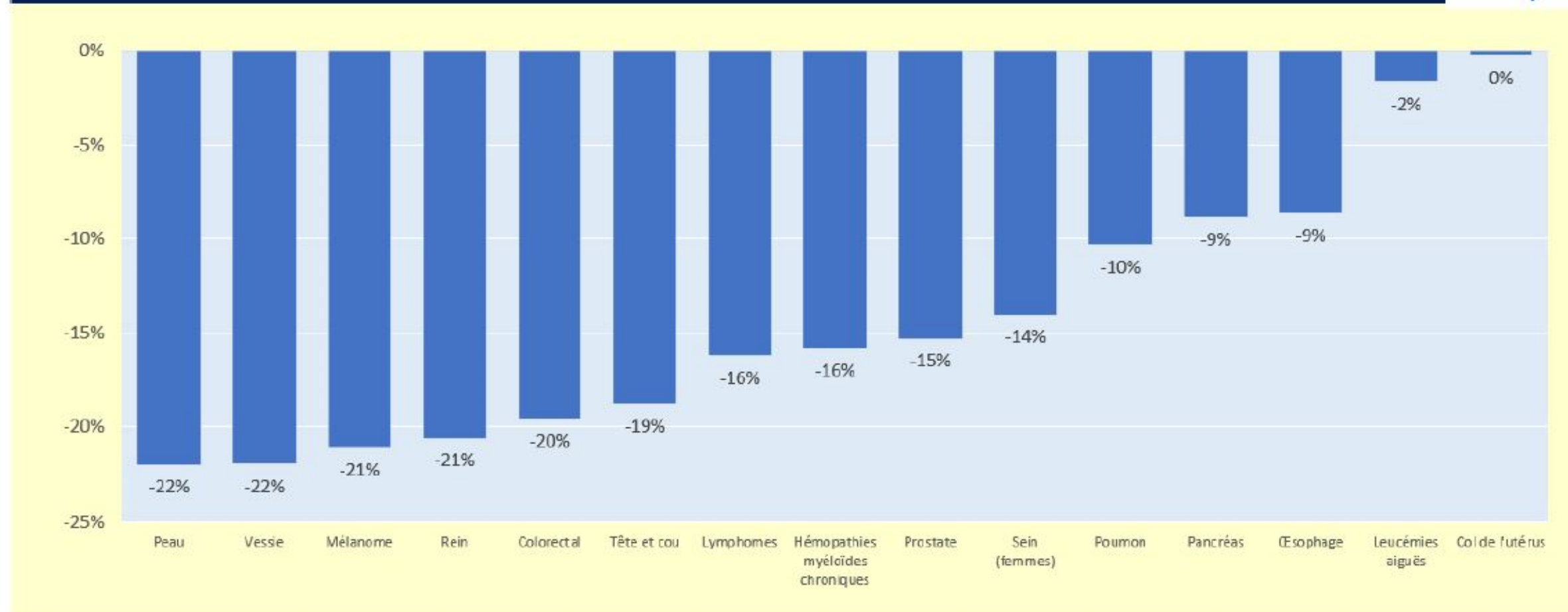
- ▶ Delayed cancer diagnosis by stopping screening programs (consequences?)
- ▶ The consequences of delayed cancer diagnosis by lockdown and the short and long-term outcomes of pts are unknown at this time
- ▶ The role of “salvage” cancer management between pandemic waves is not fully evaluated yet

Diminution du nombre de nouveaux diagnostics de cancer* en Belgique en mars-septembre 2020 en comparaison avec mars-septembre 2019 (%)

Belgian Cancer Registry



Diminution du nombre de nouveaux diagnostics de cancer chez les hommes et chez les femmes pour la Belgique en mars-septembre 2020 en comparaison avec mars-septembre 2019 (%)



Précisions types de cancers:

- Leucémies aiguës: leucémies aiguës (myéloïdes et lymphoblastiques) et néoplasmes apparentés
- Lymphomes: lymphomes matures et histiocytoses



Is there room for adopting “Covid” approaches of cancer pts and organization beyond the period of the pandemic? (1)

- ▶ Keeping the dynamic organization of cancer care and management seems to be a must (during normal life or other crisis)
- ▶ Extension of the continuity of cancer care (clinical and research) beyond hospital walls should be evaluated (QoL, economic aspect...)

Is there room for adopting “Covid” approaches of cancer pts and organization beyond the period of the pandemic? (2)

- ▶ Thinking carefully telemedicine and homework: the good and the bad? More acceptable today by all partners?
- ▶ Hope for reduction of the burden and bureaucracy of cancer care (clinical and research) following the pandemic