IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND VACCINATION ON BREAST CANCER SCREENING AND DIAGNOSTIC WORKUP
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Disclosures: Nothing to disclose
The COVID-19 pandemic affected breast cancer screening and diagnostic workup.

The Society of Breast Imaging issued several statements throughout the pandemic:

- Delaying screening during the onset of the pandemic
- Careful return to care
- Management of axillary lymphadenopathy after COVID-19 vaccination
OBJECTIVE

- To evaluate the impact of the recommendations from Society of Breast Imaging on patient care and breast imaging practice
METHODS

- This retrospective cohort study used the Montage™ data system to identify annual screening and diagnostic mammogram volume at our institution from 1/2019-7/2021.
- The BI-RADS category of each study was analyzed by month from 1/2020-7/2021.
RESULTS

- 22519 screening mammograms were performed in 2020, representing a 13.9% decrease from 26148 in 2019
- Monthly screening decreased between 3/2020-6/2020, with a near 100% decrease in 4/2020 and 5/2020 compared to 2/2020
- Screening volume returned to pre-pandemic level in 7/2020 and increased to a peak of 3001 in 10/2020, a 23% increase from 2/2020

**Screening Studies by Month**

Total screening mammograms (blue) and those given BIRADS-0 (orange) by month from 1/2020 to 7/2021
7075 diagnostic mammograms were performed in 2020 compared to 9432 in 2019, a 25.0% decrease.

Monthly diagnostic mammograms decreased to a lesser degree than screening, with 301 studies in 4/2020 compared to 674 in 2/2020, a 55.3% decrease.

While diagnostic mammograms gradually increased after 7/2020, the volume was similar to pre-pandemic level, likely due to scheduling availability.
The number of mammograms given BIRADS 4/5 increased when patients returned to care, with 100 BIRADS 4/5 studies in 9/2020 compared to 68 in 2/2020, a 47% increase.
A spike of BIRADS 0 in screening and BIRADS 3 in diagnostic mammograms was identified between 12/2020-2/2021 following the Emergency Use Authorization of COVID-19 vaccine, but both returned to baseline in the following months.
The COVID-19 pandemic caused significant delays in breast cancer screening and diagnostic workup.

After gradual return to care, the number of suspicious results as represented by BIRADS-4/5 increased for several months.

Recall rate as represented by BIRADS-0 and short-term follow-up rate as represented by BIRADS-3 briefly increased between 12/2020-2/2021 following initial COVID-19 vaccination.

However, this temporary increase normalized to baseline after 3/2021 with improved knowledge of COVID-19 vaccine related axillary lymphadenopathy.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

- For questions, please contact Zi (Jill) Zhang, MD at zi.zhang@jefferson.edu