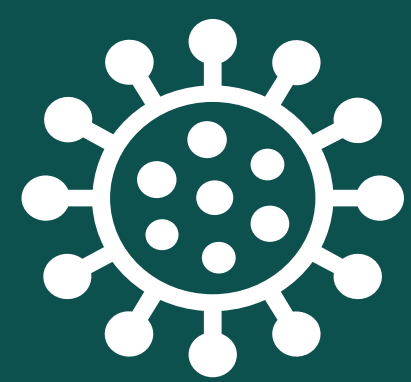


Delays in breast cancer surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic: A population-based analysis

Gary Ko, Amanda Roberts, Qing Li, Ning Liu, Toni Zhong, Eitan Amir, Anne Koch, Andrea Covelli, Vivianne Freitas, Antoine Eskander, Tulin D. Cil

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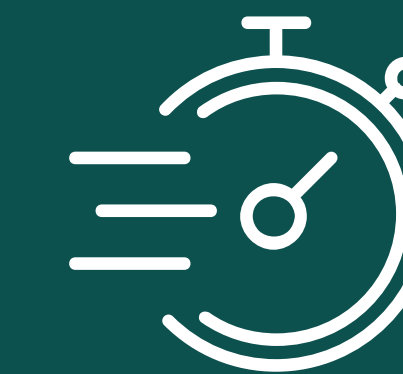
How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect surgical wait times for breast cancer at a population level?



Pre-COVID-19: January 2018 to March 14, 2020
COVID-19: March 15, 2020 – June 13, 2020
Peri-COVID-19: June 14, 2020 – November 2021



36,639 breast cancer patients in Ontario, Canada



Time from diagnosis to surgery

Surgery as first treatment

1.18 months vs **0.95 months** vs **1.22 months**
Pre-COVID-19 COVID-19 Peri-COVID-19

$p < 0.001$



Chemotherapy as first treatment

5.75 months vs **5.49 months** vs **5.72 months**
Pre-COVID-19 COVID-19 Peri-COVID-19

$p < 0.001$



- Despite operating room restrictions, wait times were shorter during the COVID-19 pandemic period, suggesting prioritization of breast cancer surgery.

- Further research is required to explore regional differences in volumes and surgical wait times based on COVID-19 hospitalization volumes.