



# IO in the COVID World: Italy

## Pisa University Hospital

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# Disclosures

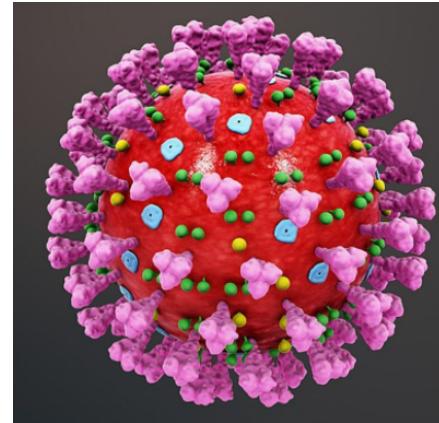
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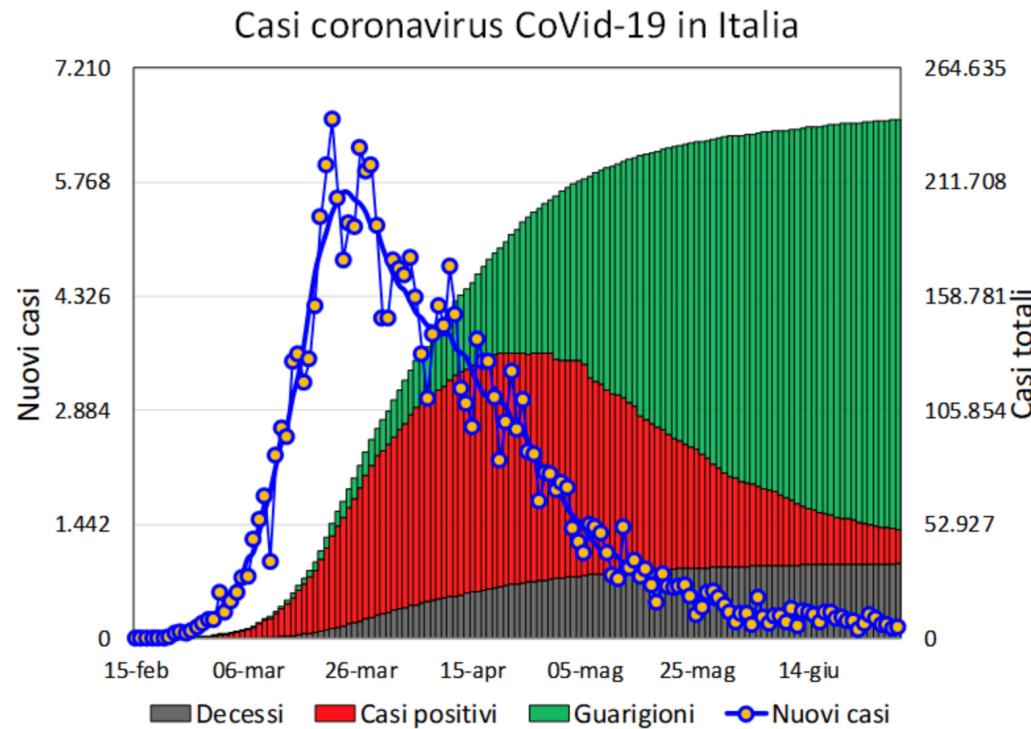
# *What Was it Like in my Country at the Height of the COVID Pandemic?*

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- ✓ January 30, 2020: first 2 cases
- ✓ March 9 – May 3, 2020: lockdown (Phase 1)
- ✓ May 4 – June 14, 2020: loosening (Phase 2)
- ✓ June 15 – October 4, 2020: coexistence (Phase 3)
- ✓ October 5: toward a “mini-lockdown”



# What Was it Like in my Country at the Height of the COVID Pandemic?



# How COVID has Changed my Practice of IO

- ✓ 7 days of “shock”
- ✓ Gradual reorganization of workflow
- ✓ During lockdown, only treatments for “Class A” patients (at risk of progression, requiring treatment within 30 days) were guaranteed
- ✓ Limited access to:
  - elective surgery
  - ablation

-- Anesthesiologists dedicated to COVID  
-- Operating rooms transformed in ICU



# How COVID has Changed my practice of IO

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- ✓ Intra-arterial treatments (TACE and TARE) regularly plannable
- ✓ No problems with availability of beds in the ward in non-COVID divisions
- ✓ Ablations restarted on April 6

- ✓ Lockdown (2 months): 23 TARE, 14 TACE, 7 ablations
- ✓ Loosening (1 month): 12 TARE, 17 TACE, 13 ablations

TACE and ablation decrease by 50% and 75%, respectively  
TARE: no change

# How COVID has Changed my practice of IO

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- ✓ Patients with advanced disease were treated without delay
- ✓ Patients with limited disease were postponed (some of them refused to come to the hospital)
- ✓ No waiting list at the end of “Loosening” phase
- ✓ Only few cases progressed and were lost to IO treatment

# How COVID has Changed my practice of IO

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- ✓ Every patient undergoes PCR testing for COVID-19 within 48 hours prior to hospitalization
- ✓ In the case of out-patient procedures, the IR division is in charge of organizing PCR testing
- ✓ At the moment, if PCR testing is positive, the procedure/treatment is postponed



# Currently

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- ✓ Treatment scheduled as in pre-COVID era, in COVID test negative patients
- ✓ Need for update with the actual increase of asymptomatic positive cases?



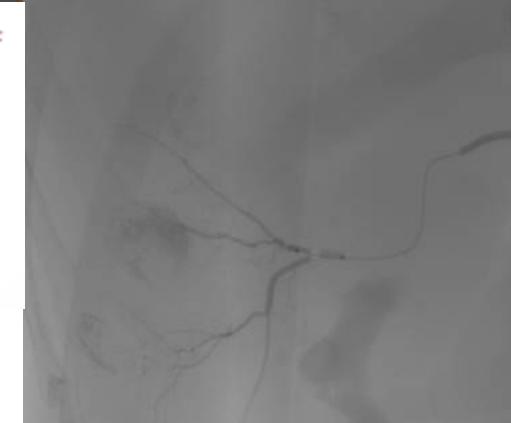
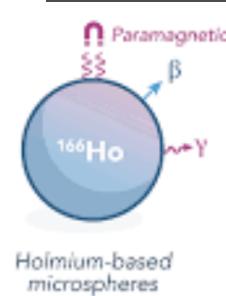
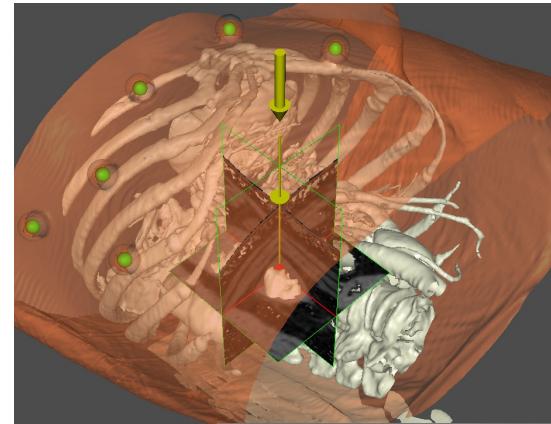
# Future Goals in IO at University of Pisa

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# Future Goals in IO at University of Pisa

- ✓ Acquisition of devices for robotic assistance of ablation procedures
- ✓ Research focus:
  - balloon-assisted MW ablation
  - $\text{Ho}^{166}$  TARE
  - New platforms for TACE
  - Potentiate multimodality dowstaging for liver transplantation



# Thank you!



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