

# INTERVENTIONAL ONCOLOGY AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN PANAMA

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# Disclosures

Nothing to disclose.

*Brand names are included in this presentation for participant clarification purposes only. No product promotion should be inferred.*



# General

- Panama is a country located in Central America with an estimated population of 4 million
- Has a unique model in the region, as patients with a diagnosis of cancer are managed by the government in a single hospital center



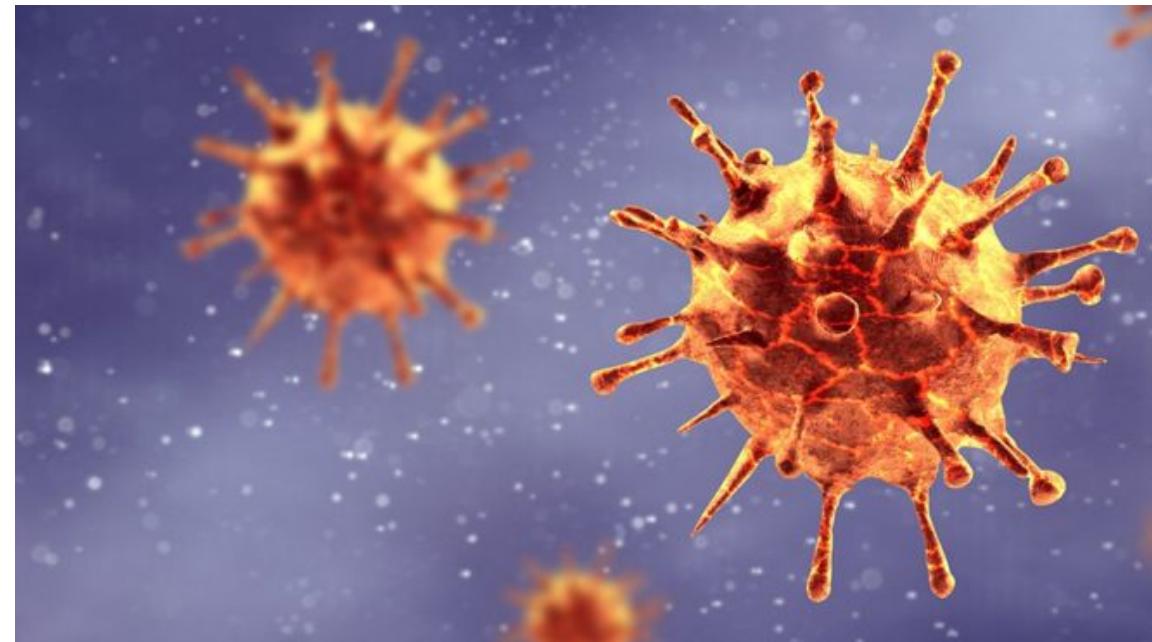
# National Oncology Institute of PANAMA

- Third-level hospital with estimated coverage of 3 million people
- 2019: 4,400 new cases
- It has 155 beds
- IO: Hybrid equipment Angio/CT Canon and Arc in C digital Ziehm



# COVID-19 in Panamá

- The start of the pandemic is declared on March 10, 2020.
- The Ministry of Health declares the **National Oncology Institute will not treat COVID-19 patients.**
- So, COVID-19 cancer patients will be transferred to another hospital, designated hotel, or home until recovery.



# Changes in Interventional Oncology

- Creation of the Triage zone of the hospital to perform COVID-19 tests for suspicious cases, and another testing facility for asymptomatic patients scheduled for surgery or interventional procedures
- Rapid antigenic tests are performed and verified with an RT-PCR test report in the next 8 hours. A “rapid” RT-PCR test (GenExpert) was available for vital emergencies, reporting results in less than one hour



# Changes in Interventional Oncology

- For routine scheduled patients, RT-PCR was performed, and the patients wait for the results at home in the next 24-48 hours
- Mandatory use of full PPE irrespective of test result
- Mandatory use of masks for patients irrespective of test results



gía Radiología QT RT Cirugías Interconsulta Hospitaliz

Tipo Paciente:  
PENSIONADO

Instituto Oncológico Nacional  
Servicio de Hematología  
Laboratorio de Criopreservación y Hemato-Oncología Molecular

**Detección de Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV**  
Reporte de Resultados

Información del Paciente		
Nombre: [REDACTED]	Procedencia: Admisión	
Cédula: 8[REDACTED]	Sexo: F	
Solicitado por:	Fecha de Nacimiento: 23-01-1963	
Diagnóstico:	Edad: 57 años	
Distrito: Panamá	Provincia: Panamá	
Corregimiento:		
Información de la Muestra		
Tipo de muestra: Hisopado Nasofaringeo	Fecha de toma de la Muestra: 22-septiembre-2020	
Fecha de Ingreso de la Muestra: 22-septiembre-2020	Fecha de Procesamiento: 22-septiembre-2020	
Resultado del Estudio		
<b>Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV:</b>		
<b>Resultado: NO DETECTADO</b>		

**Resultado: NO DETECTADO**

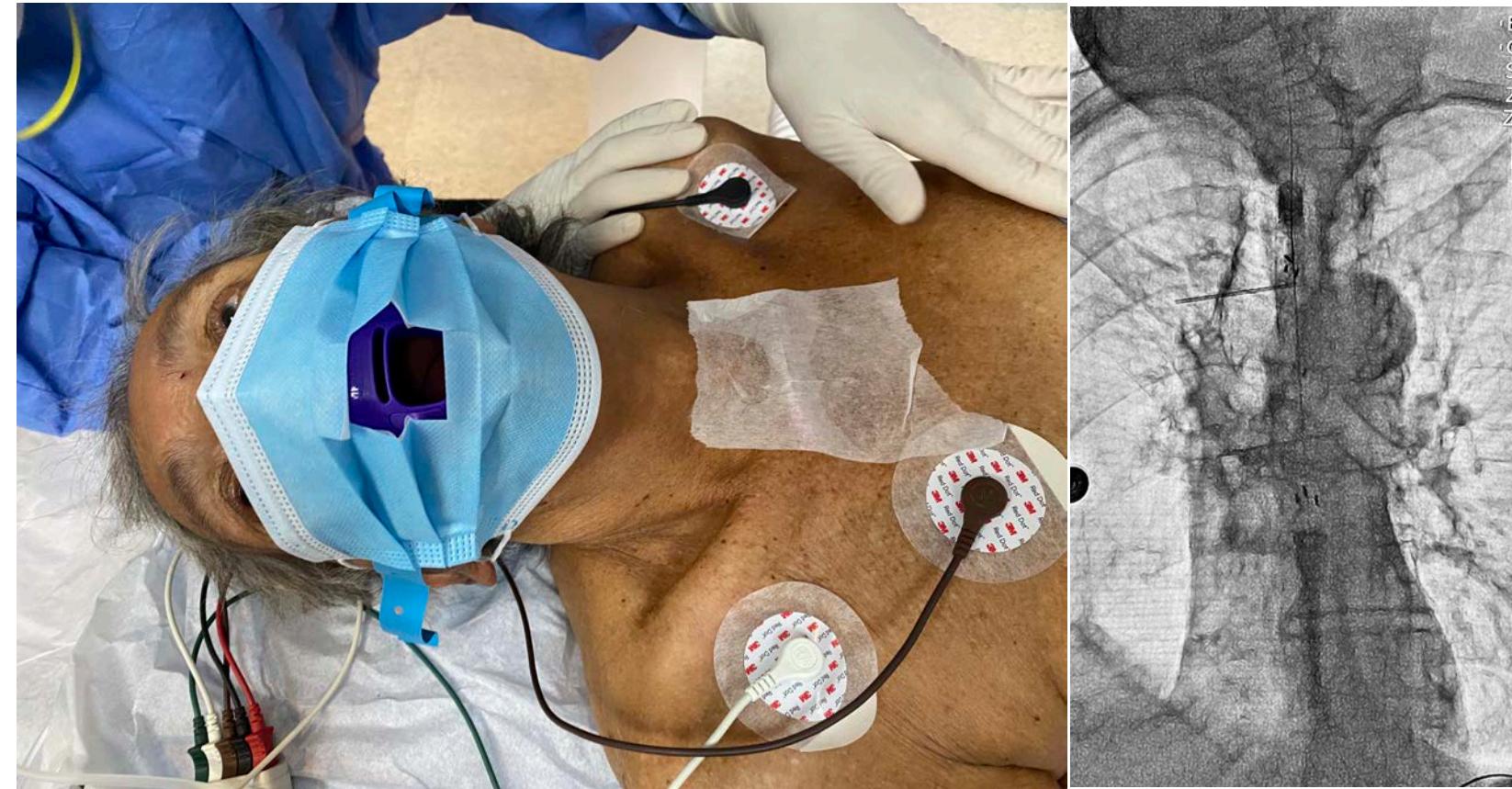
# Changes in Interventional Oncology

- The creation of a COVID-19 committee for the hospital, and another one for the Radiology Department
- Creation of Protocol Guidelines
- Distancing and measure temperature
- No visits or companion relatives allowed except for those patients with limitations
- Outpatient consultations were reduced by 50%; the other 50% were taken care of by telephone consultation



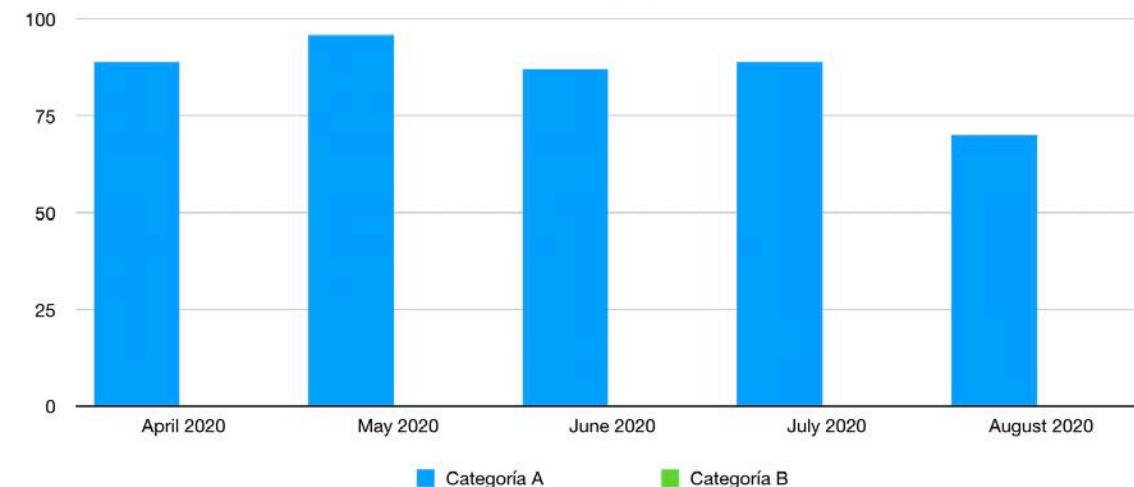
# Challenges in Interventional Oncology

- The procedures for positive asymptomatic patients were postponed
- There were patients who did not go to the hospital out of fear
- Department's staff who tested positive were quarantined



# Procedures for Interventional Oncology in Pandemic

- In the first graph, we see that the peak of positive cases in Panama occurred in the months of July and August.
- The second graph shows that the number of procedures performed was stable during the pandemic.



La Prensa newspaper. ION Radiology Department.

# Procedures for Interventional Oncology in Pandemic

- Graph 1 shows the comparison of procedure numbers of 2019 vs. procedures during the pandemic
- The number of procedures decreased by 25% during the pandemic

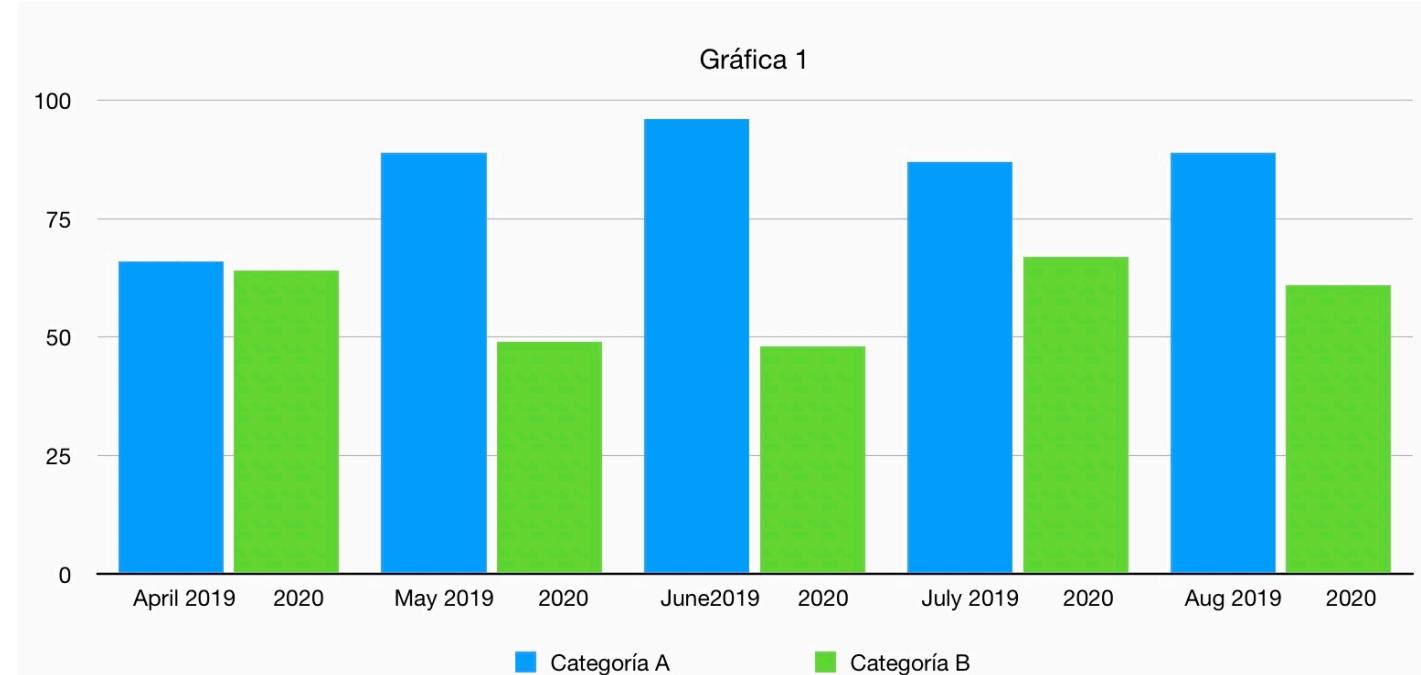
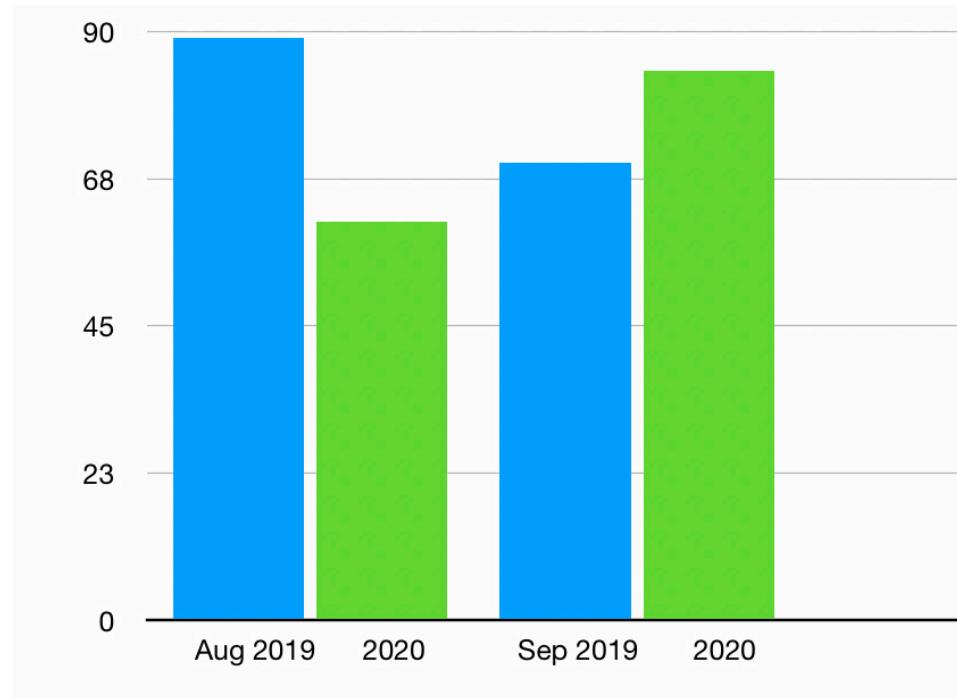


Tabla 1

		Categoría A	Categoría B	
April 2019	2020	66	64	
May 2019	2020	89	49	
June 2019	2020	96	48	
July 2019	2020	87	67	
Aug 2019	2020	89	61	
Sept 2019	2020	70	89	

# Procedures for Interventional Oncology in Pandemic

- For the month of September, there were more procedures than those performed in 2019
- Patients and health personal work in compliance with the protocols



# Results of ION Pandemic Management

- Six months after the pandemic, ION is still a COVID-19-free hospital
- For September, the number of procedures was similar to the amount of procedures performed during 2019
- IO: A nurse and helper tested positive for COVID-19 and one medical assistant died (Total positive employees in the hospital to date is 96)
- Patients with cancer and COVID in the country reached 237 with 46 deaths as of September 28th





Thank you.

