

INTERVENTIONAL ONCOLOGY AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN PANAMA

Dr. HECTOR H TAPIA G.

Interventional Radiology

Head of the Radiology and Imaging Service

National Oncology Institute of Panama



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



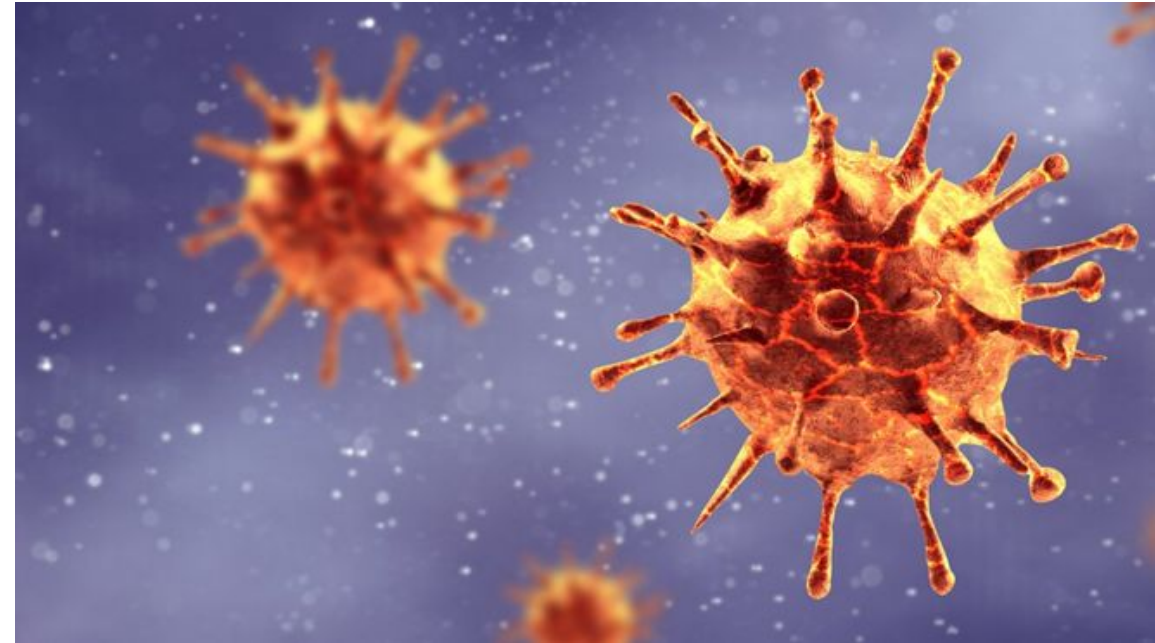
National Oncology Institute of PANAMA

- 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



Logia Radiología QT RT Cirugías Interconsulta Hospitaliz

Tipo Paciente:
ar-FENSIONADO

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	Procedencia:	Admisión
Cédula	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 Nasofaríngeo	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
Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV: Resultado: NO DETECTADO

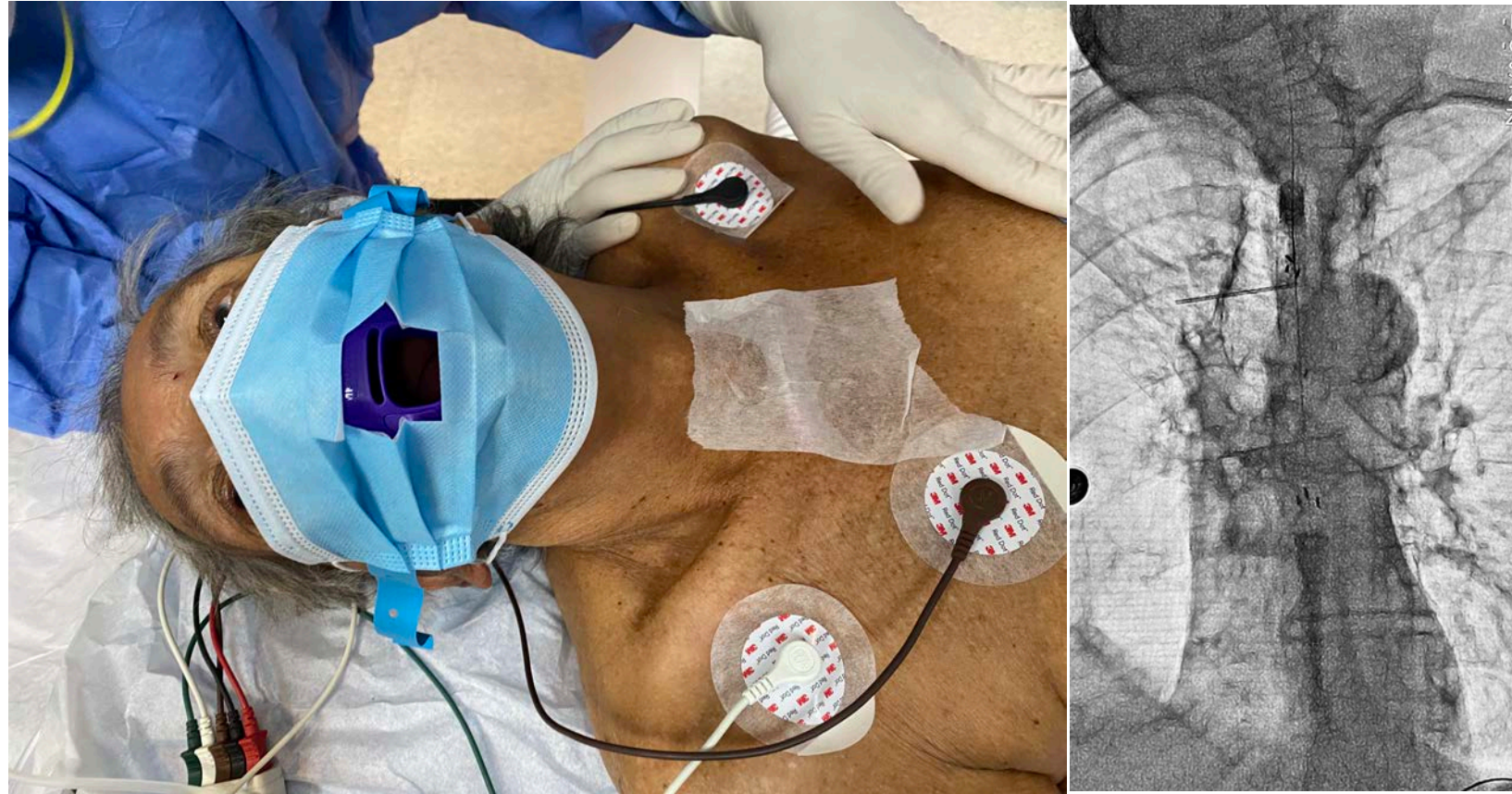
Changes in Interventional Oncology

- 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



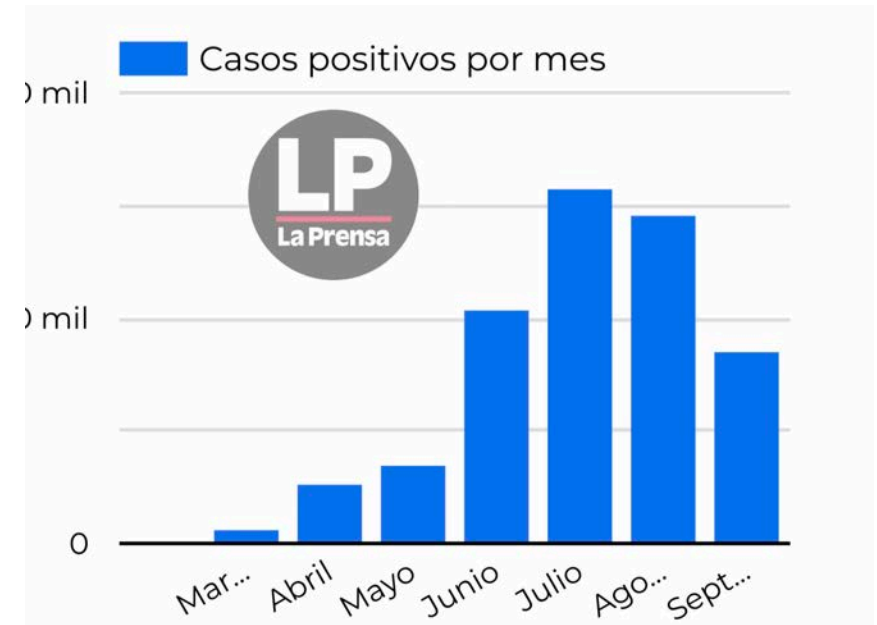
Challenges in Interventional Oncology

- 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

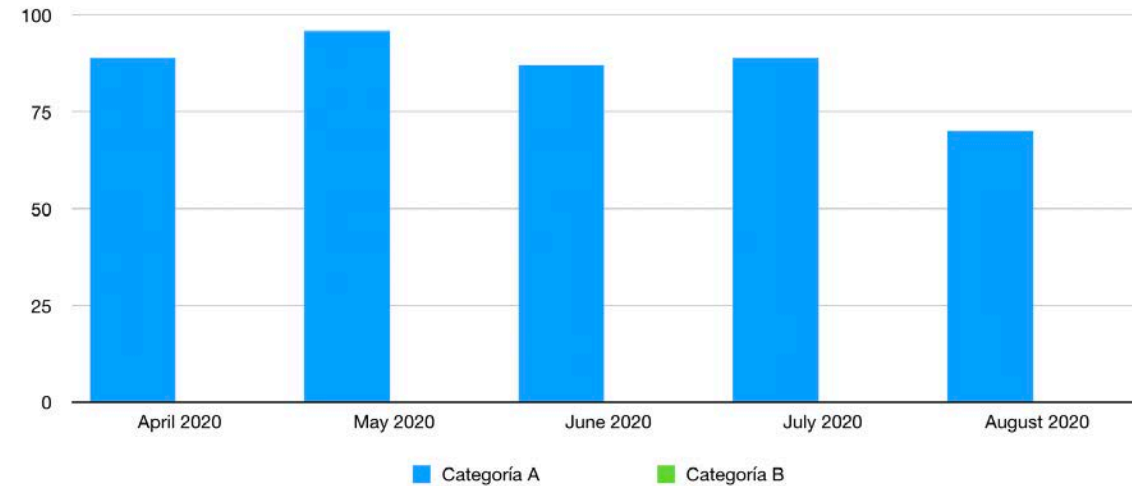


Procedures for Interventional Oncology in Pandemic

- 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.



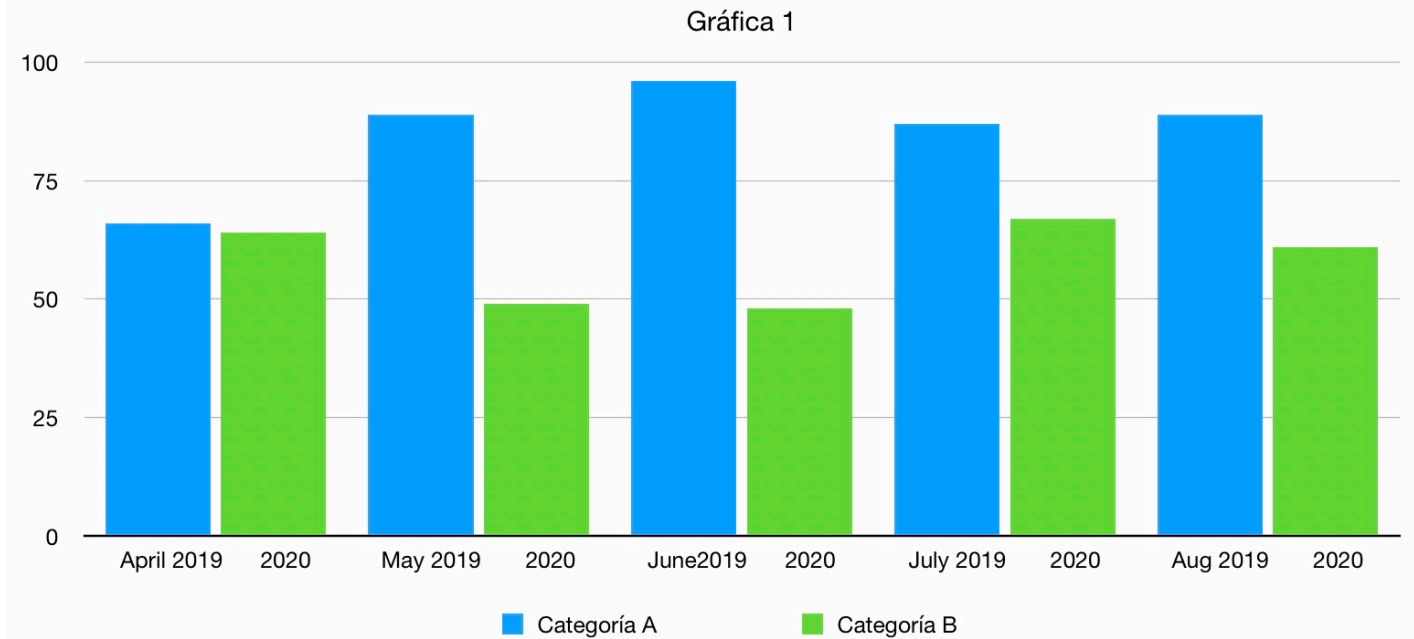
Gráfica 2



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



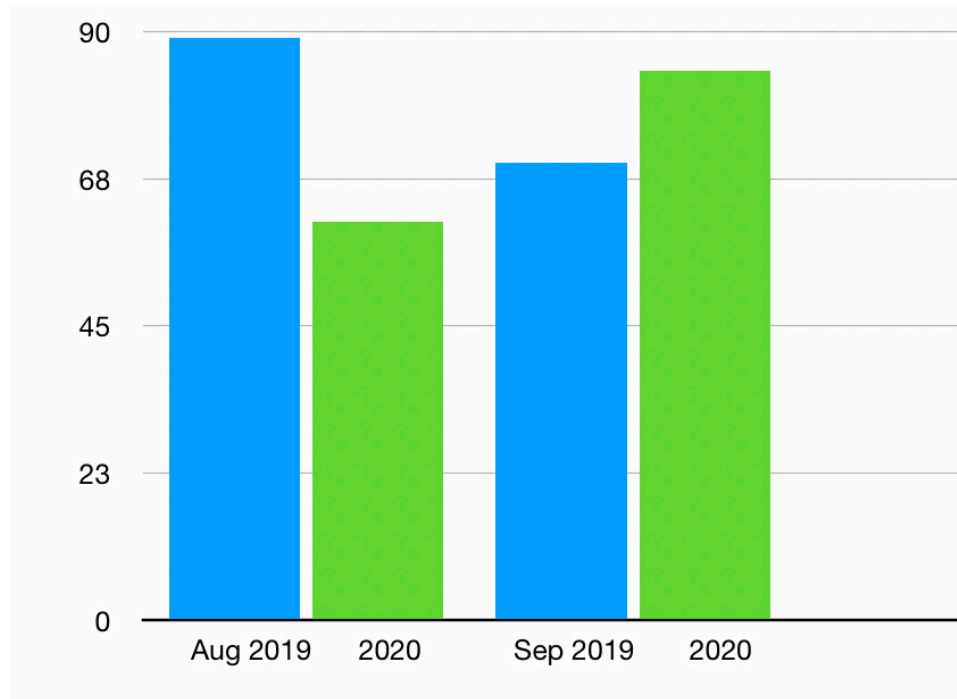
- The number of procedures decreased by 25% during the pandemic

Tabla 1

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

