

COVID-19 VACCINATION AND CANCER PATIENTS; INSPIRE2LIVE STATEMENTS on the commemoration of the World Cancer Day 2021

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Review

The statement covers a range of important issues related to the implications of the SARS-Cov-2 pandemic for cancer patients. Specifically, questions related to priority setting in vaccination policies, and a plea to make different choices in vaccination policies in the interest of cancer patients, and those who provide care for them.

This review is limited to the main normative point of the statement, namely that cancer patients, and to those providing care for them (professionals, volunteers, primary family members) should be given a higher priority in vaccination policies.

My main comment is that more argumentation is needed to support this normative conclusion. Specifically, in line with the quote that *'It has been clearly recognised that the priority vaccination lists are different in many countries and not in compliance with medical, ethical and legal principles in general,'* one would expect at least a brief discussion:

- a) of common ethical principles for priority-setting in vaccination policies, and
- b) how prioritization of cancer patients should be judged in line with those common principles.

In addition, expanding the group of people who should get priority in vaccination policies, will inadvertently have implications for others (given scarcity). It seems only fair then that the authors acknowledge this point, and address the question who, based on the same principles for priority-setting, should be able to wait a little longer (without necessarily having to answer that question).