



SHAREABLE PDF

# Does chemotherapy reactivate SARS-CoV-2 in cancer patients recovered from prior COVID-19 infection?

Jianping Bi<sup>1,8</sup>, Hong Ma<sup>2,8</sup>, Dongsheng Zhang<sup>3,8</sup>, Jing Huang<sup>2</sup>, Dongqin Yang<sup>4</sup>, Yajie Wang<sup>5</sup>, Vivek Verma<sup>1</sup>, Tao Zhang<sup>2</sup>, Desheng Hu<sup>1</sup>, Qi Mei<sup>6,9</sup>, Guang Han<sup>1,9</sup> and Jian Li<sup>7</sup>

**Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>Dept of Radiation Oncology, Hubei Cancer Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China. <sup>2</sup>Cancer Center, Union Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China. <sup>3</sup>Dept of Oncology, Hubei University of Medicine, Suizhou Hospital, Suizhou, China. <sup>4</sup>Dept of Oncology, The Fifth Hospital of Wuhan, Wuhan, China. <sup>5</sup>Dept of General Surgery, People's Hospital of Dongxihu District, Wuhan, China. <sup>6</sup>Dept of Oncology, Tongji Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China. <sup>7</sup>Institute of Medical Information, Biometry, and Epidemiology, Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich, Munich, Germany. <sup>8</sup>Jianping Bi, Hong Ma and Dongsheng Zhang contributed equally as first authors. <sup>9</sup>Guang Han and Qi Mei contributed equally to this article as lead authors and supervised the work.

**Correspondence:** Guang Han, Dept of Radiation Oncology, Hubei Cancer Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan 430079, China. E-mail:hg7913@hotmail.com



@ERSpublications

**Recovered COVID-19 cancer patients remain negative for SARS-CoV-2 after delivery of chemotherapy**  
<https://bit.ly/2QNTqO0>

**Cite this article as:** Bi J, Ma H, Zhang D, *et al.* Does chemotherapy reactivate SARS-CoV-2 in cancer patients recovered from prior COVID-19 infection?. *Eur Respir J* 2020; 56: 2002672 [<https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.02672-2020>].

This single-page version can be shared freely online.

## To the Editor:

Cancer patients are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [1–3]. These individuals are not only more susceptible to this infection, but also more frequently develop severe pneumonia during the disease course [1–3]. One factor associated with an increasing risk for developing severe events in this population is oncologic therapy, especially cytotoxic chemotherapy. Therefore, some oncologists and societies recommend that chemotherapy should generally not be started until COVID-19 symptoms have completely resolved and viral testing becomes negative [3, 4]. Additionally, some cancer patients who have recovered from infection are recommended to withhold, postpone, or switch to alternative routes of chemotherapy (*e.g.* oral instead of intravenous infusion) until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic [3, 4].