

Mayo Clinic Minute: How COVID-19 has affected cancer care

VIDEO	AUDIO
	The COVID-19 pandemic has changed access to health care worldwide, and these changes may have long-term consequences for those diagnosed with cancer.
Dr. Sikander Ailawadhi Hematology Oncology Mayo Clinic	"Screening for cancer had been put off, leading to patients getting diagnosed at later stages and not having the same outcomes as we would expect ."
	Dr. Sikander Ailawadhi, a Mayo Clinic hematologist and oncologist, says patients who have cancer and are undergoing treatment need to have a care plan in place related to COVID-19.
	"If these patients who have a compromised immune system do get COVID infection, they're more likely to have a more severe disease from COVID."
	That can also disrupt treatment and further impact outcomes. But Dr. Ailawadhi says what has improved during the pandemic is telemedicine.
	"That has provided another opportunity to patients to access health care, while not getting exposed to a lot of risk. And actually, in some cases, access to experts."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Alex Osiadacz.