THE CANCER SHADOW CURVE

Since mid-March 2020, as COVID-19 cases in the United States began to rise, experts noticed another disturbing trend: Cancer screenings, diagnostic tests and treatments were falling dramatically. That continuing trend has doctors and health care experts bracing for a SHADOW CURVE— or a surge in new cancer diagnoses and deaths and an increase in advanced-stage cancer cases.

COVID-19 AND CANCER

50%

of cancer patients said their treatments had been affected by the pandemic.1

DECREASES in visits related to specific cancers:

94% Breast cancer
86% Colon cancer
94% Cervical cancer

DECREASES in specific screenings:

90% Colonoscopy
87% Mammogram
83% Pap smear

Clinical trials

80% of U.S. cancer researchers surveyed said COVID-19 has disrupted their clinical trials. Enrollment rates in clinical trials due to the pandemic.

The National Cancer Institute predicts in excess of 10,000 additional deaths from breast and colorectal cancers in the next 10 years due to screening and treatment delays caused by the pandemic.2

CLINICAL TRIALS

80% of U.S. cancer researchers surveyed said COVID-19 has disrupted their clinical trials.

Enrollment rates in clinical trials due to the pandemic.

60% AT A LOWER RATE

20% NOT ENROLLING

20% AT THE SAME RATE

Steps to take

4 steps you can take to regain control of your cancer care

RE-SCHEDULE A CANCELLED VISIT

If you or your doctor cancelled or postponed a test or treatment, reschedule as soon as possible.

SCHEDULE AN OVERDUE VISIT

If you haven’t made a recommended screening appointment, such as a 5-year colonoscopy, call to schedule one.

DON’T GIVE UP

If the first treatment center or hospital you call can’t accommodate your request, call others to schedule the screening or treatment you need.

KNOW YOUR BENEFITS

You may be able to choose an out-of-network provider if your in-network options are unavailable. Check with your insurance agent.

Concerned about your risk?

Assess your cancer risk with the CTCa® RISK MANAGEMENT TOOL, available at rmt.cancercenter.com. If your risk assessment suggests you should get screened or if you have concerns, consider scheduling your cancer screening sooner rather than later.

Cancer Treatment Centers of America®