Observations on the Impact of COVID-19 Disease on Oncology Practice from CancerLinQ:
Chemotherapy Drugs for Breast, Colon and Lung Cancer

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George Komatsoulis, PhD
Chief of Bioinformatics

NOTE: This is the second in a series of reports on the impacts of COVID-19 disease on the practice of oncology as observed through de-identified CancerLinQ data to support quality improvement for the patients at our subscribing practices. For more information, please see https://cancerlinq.org/. For feedback or questions, contact info@cancerlinq.org. This data is accurate as of 5/13/20, but as always, there can be latency in data reporting, and we will update it as new data becomes available.

Figure 1 shows the number of patients with drug order/administration events (i.e., the number of new prescription orders or administration records for the drug during the referenced week in the EHRs of the 35 sites that provide us with regular incremental updates for a number of common chemotherapies used for breast, colon, and lung cancer. At this time we are still seeing substantial usage of these drugs, although at lower levels than 2019, and we are also noticing a trend toward fewer drug orders and administrations as the COVID-19 emergency continues. Please note all weeks are Sunday to Saturday. Weeks 1 and 53 may have fewer than 7 days and that the final entry (week 19) for 2020 is for an incomplete week with only 4 days instead of 7.
Figure 1: Number of patients with new prescription orders or administrations recorded in the EHRs of sites for the specified drug by week for selected anti-neoplastic agents (blue = 2019, orange = 2020)