

Assistance pressure in oncohematological dispensation area during the COVID pandemic

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Introduction and objective:

During the pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, many pathologies have been stopped being diagnosed and/or treated in hospitals, since most of the material and human resources have been allocated to the diagnosis and treatment of the disease, as well as to prevent the spread of the virus. In the case of **oncological and hematological patients**, first analyses show a significant number of Spanish patients who have had delays in starting their treatments and their interruptions, according to the Spanish Society of Medical Oncology (SEOM).

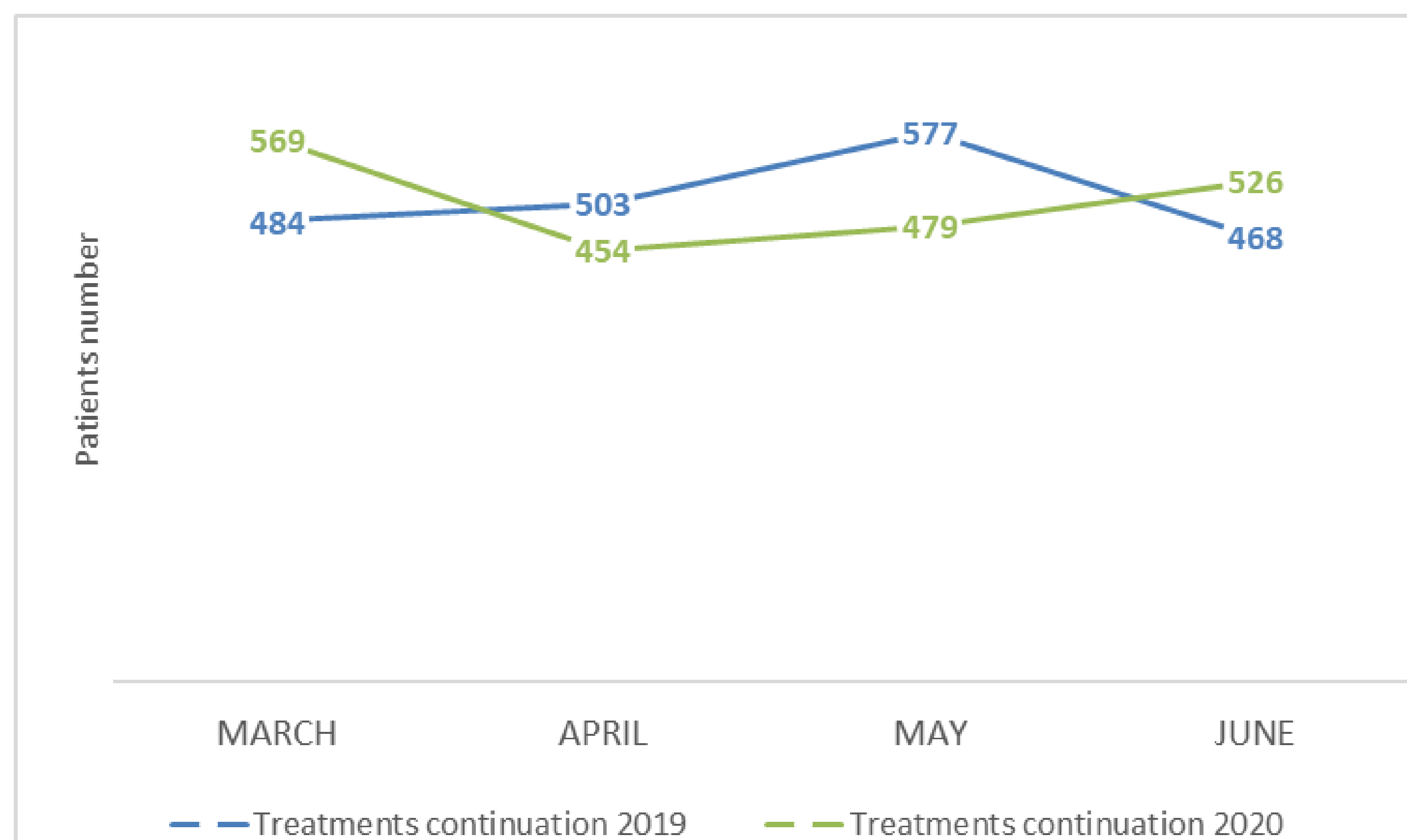
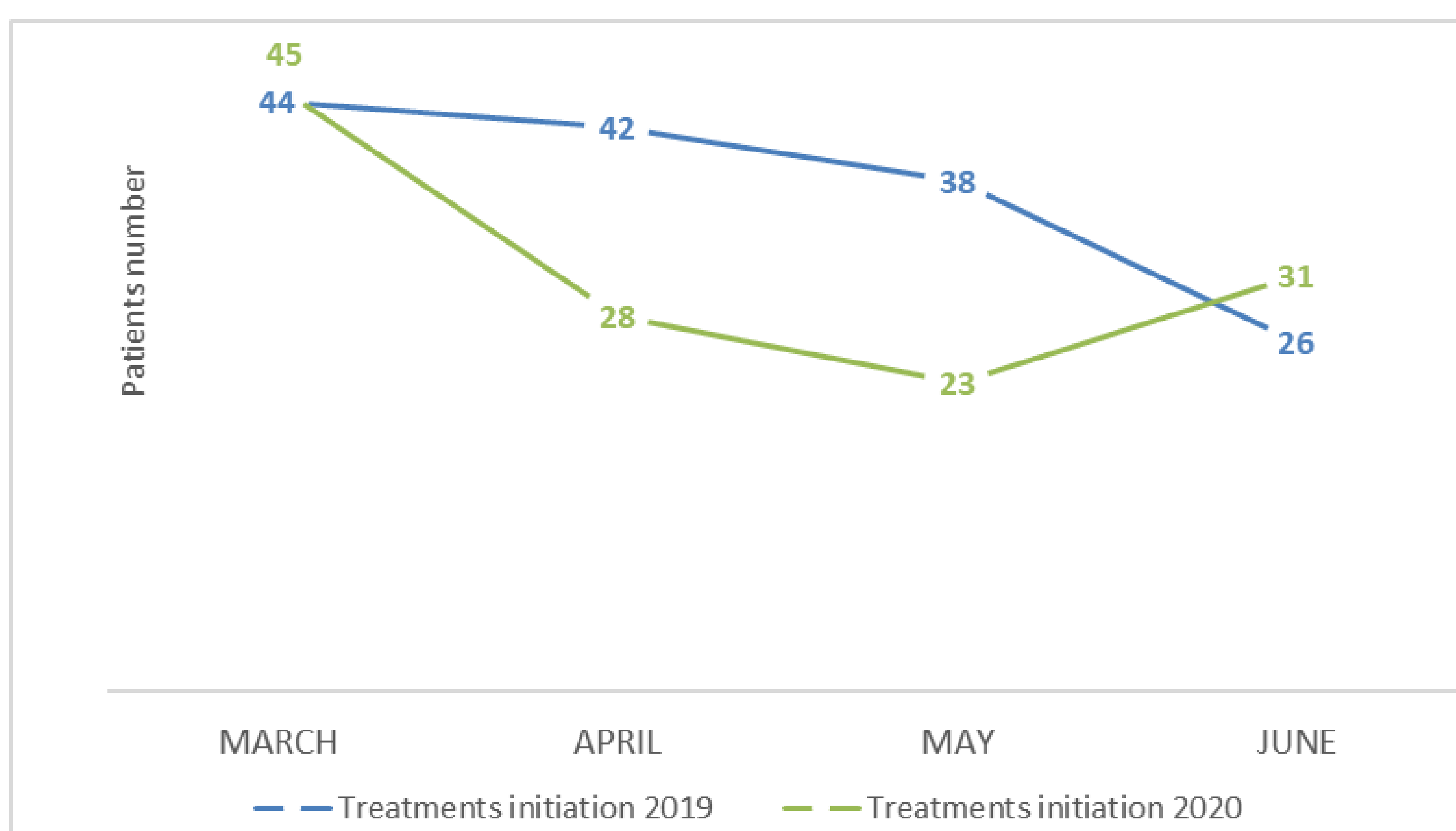
The **objective** is to analyse the evolution of the **care activity** provided to **Oncohematologic patients with hospital dispensation of oral chemotherapy in a Pharmacy Service** during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

Material and method:

Retrospective and descriptive study that included all patients who attended the oncohematological dispensation area of the Pharmacy Service between the months of March to June 2020 and were compared with the number of patients in the same period of 2019.

Results:

- Total reduction in the number of patients was not significant (1.24% lower).
- During the months of April and May, coinciding with the critical point of the quarantine period, the largest differences occurred: 11.6 and 18.4% respectively (545/482 and 615/503 patients).
 - Treatments initiation decreased by 33.33% and 39.47% compared to the same months of the previous year.
 - Treatment continuations showed a reduction of 9.7 and 16.9%.
- Results confirm the data published by the SEOM regarding the delay in the initiation and discontinuation in certain patients. Delays in initial care and diagnosis are especially worrisome because of the consequences they can have on the evolution and prognosis of patients.



Conclusions:

- The results show a reduction of almost 40% in the initiation of treatments during the main months of quarantine in Spain.
- Telematic visits and the possibility of electronic drug prescription have partially controlled this attention deficit.