

A TEAM OF ONCOLOGISTS AT HÔPITAL CHARLES-LE MOYNE WINS CANCER PRIZE

Longueuil, March 17, 2023 – A team of oncologists at Hôpital Charles-Le Moyne won the Prix de cancérologie 2022, for their study on the effectiveness and safety of the COVID-19 vaccination for cancer patients.

The study, conducted in spring 2021 by hematologistS-oncologists Nathalie Daaboul and Mélina Boutin, and medical oncologist Catherine Prady, sought to better understand the effectiveness and safety of the vaccination for patients in active cancer treatment in order to be able to better respond to their questions.

Right from the start of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, patients reached out to their specialized physicians to find out if they should get the vaccination and what the risks were.

Patients receiving cancer treatment were considered at high risk of several complications and death related to the virus. The vaccines were the most effective method for preventing complications related to the virus. However, because they had been tested on healthy subjects, little was known about their effectiveness and safety for patients in cancer treatment.

The study led by these specialized physicians sought to improve scientific knowledge on this subject. Some 200 patients agreed to participate in the study by answering questionnaires and providing a blood sample after receiving their first and their second dose of the vaccine.

The study confirmed that the vaccination was safe and effectively protected most patients being treating in oncology, regardless of sex, age or type of cancer. However, patients with a hematological cancer (such as leukemia or lymphoma) developed less protection against the virus. For patients with blood cancer, the researchers found that other methods of protecting complications should be prioritized, such as infection prevention, early detection and the use of antivirals.

This study, funded by the Fondation Hôpital Charles-LeMoyne, would not have been possible without the generous contribution of the Foundation's donors. This kind of philanthropic support is indispensable for continuing to improve patient access to the best health care and makes our donors essential allies in clinical research.

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