

## N. Ireland Cancer Registry Implications of Research for Services

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<b>Paper Title</b>	The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Barrett's Esophagus and Esophago-gastric Cancer
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<b>Full paper available online</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> NOT YET <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<p>We investigated how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the diagnosis of oesophageal and stomach cancer and Barrett's oesophagus. Analysing data from the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry, we estimated the number of patients who had been diagnosed with these conditions across Northern Ireland between March and September 2020, and compared this with data from 2017-2019.</p> <p>We found that diagnoses of oesophageal and stomach cancer fell by 26.6%; meaning that 53 fewer patients than expected were diagnosed during the first six months of the pandemic. For Barrett's oesophagus, diagnoses fell by 59.3% which represents 236 fewer Barrett's cases than expected</p>
<b>What this means for the service</b>	<p>This study is the first to show the impact of COVID-19 on the pre-cancerous condition, Barrett's oesophagus.</p> <p>There will be missed opportunities for prevention of cancers due to this sharp decline in Barrett's oesophagus diagnoses.</p>

	<p>Coupled with the drop in expected numbers of oesophageal and stomach cancer diagnoses, we are very concerned that patients will present later with more advanced disease and have poorer survival outcomes as a result.</p> <p>It is vital that we protect and reinstate our cancer diagnostic services, such as endoscopy, to help minimise the impact of the pandemic on cancer patients</p>
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