

INTRODUCTION:

- From March – May 2020, surgeries that were deemed elective or non-urgent were delayed to preserve resources and personnel for the incoming COVID surge
- Temporizing treatment modalities were based on expert consensus, given a lack of prospective data

We aimed to understand the immediate emotional impact of surgical delay on individual patients.

METHODS

- We **recruited** patients who were diagnosed with early-stage breast or prostate cancer who had their surgery delayed due to COVID-19.
- Semi-structured interviews were conducted by phone in early May 2020.
- **Qualitative analysis** was performed using grounded theory approach until thematic saturation was achieved.



COHORT:

- 21 patients
 - 13 prostate
 - 8 breast
- Surgeries postponed:
 - Prostatectomy
 - Lumpectomy, mastectomy
- Median age:
 - 63 (47-79 years)



Highlights opportunities for improved communication, social support.

