1st International ACP-I Digital ExchangeVirtual, 25 August 2021



Outline

1. ACP and Covid-19 in Switzerland

2. How the pandemic creates chances for ACP

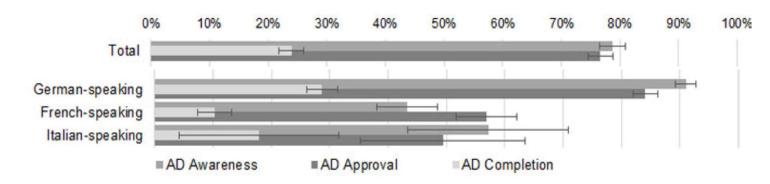
3. How the pandemic challenges ACP





ACP in Switzerland

- As in most European countries, advance directives (AD) are legally recognized (in CH since 2013)
- Heterogeneity of AD forms and practices, mostly offered by private organizations and healthcare associations
- ACP: local pioneer projects (e.g., Zurich, Lausanne)



Vilpert S et al. Swiss Med Wkly 2018

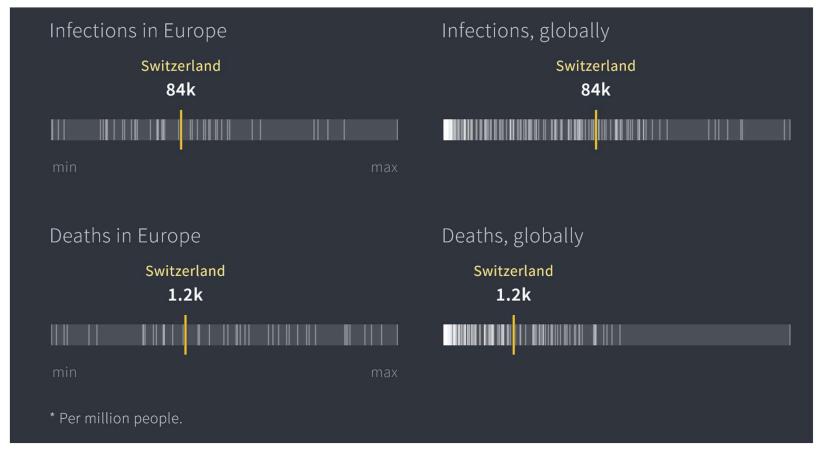


02/09/2021



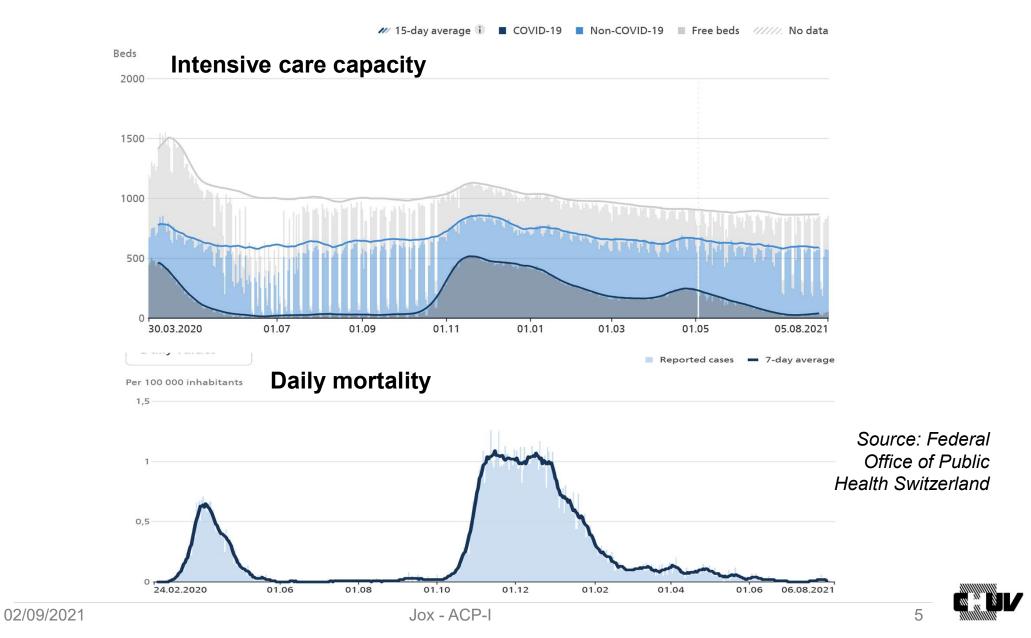
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COVID-19 in Switzerland



Source: Reuters Covid-19 Tracker





COVID impact on advance directives

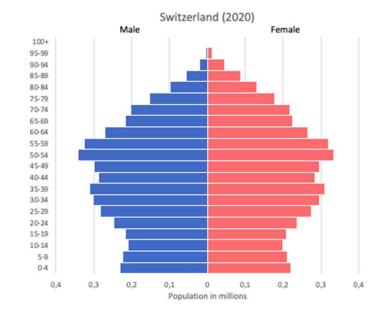
 Organizations reported a steeply increased demand for and use of advance directives (AD's)

Concerned also areas where the prevalence of advance directives is

still very low

 Covid-19 as age-related disease poses a specific threat for an aged and aging country

Many AD forms felt to be inappropriate to Covid





How COVID creates chances for ACP

1. Need for professional counselling

- → Covid-19 = multiple manifestations and courses
- → Scientific data heterogeneous and rapidly emerging

2. Need for decision-neutral documentation

- → People want to document consent to life support
- → Traditional AD forms are biased towards refusals

3. Need for a dynamic process

- → Many who have AD's want to update them
- → Many wanted to add Covid-specific decisions
- → Emerging variants and changing risk profiles with vaccination calls for updates





ACP activities during pandemic

- ACP pilot groups in Zurich and Lausanne offered ad hoc telephone counselling
- They also published add-on ACP modules related to Covid-19
- Short versions of ACP documentation were offered (value discussion, AD form)
- The Zurich ACP group offered a specific decision aid for Covidrelated dyspnea
- ACP material was provided for free on the internet, even without professional ACP facilitation





Public attention for ACP

- National palliative care association called for ACP
- National ICU triage policy included mentioned AD's and ACP
- ACP Swiss was founded on July 1, 2020
- Political bodies started to promote ACP

Established in 1871

Swiss Medical Weekly

Formerly: Schweizerische Medizinische Wochenschrift An open access, online journal • www.smw.ch

Special article | Published 24 March 2020 | doi:10.4414/smw.2020.20233 Cite this as: Swiss Med Wkly. 2020;150:w20233

COVID-19: decision making and palliative care

Borasio Gian Domenico^a, Gamondi Claudia^b, Obrist Monika^c, Jox Ralf^d for the COVID-19 task force of palliative ch





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This document is available in English, French, German and Italian, cf. sams.ch/en/coronavirus
The German text is the authentic version.
Revised version 3.1, 17 December 2020

Covid-19 pandemic: triage for intensive-care treatment under resource scarcity

Guidance on the application of Section 9.3 of the SAMS Guidelines «Intensive-care interventions» (2013)





How COVID challenges ACP

1. High-quality ACP despite physical distance?

- → Is ACP facilitation by videoconferencing effective?
- → How effective are online (AI-supported) ACP tools?
- → How to integrate relatives despite visitor restrictions?

2. Ensuring rapid adaptation of ACP resources?

- → Train enough (non-clinical) ACP facilitators
- → Prepare rapid adaptation of ACP forms to urgent health crises and novel diseases

3. Public communication on ACP in health crises?

- → Pushing people to ACP in order to avoid triage?
- → How to guarantee a free and autonomous decision?





