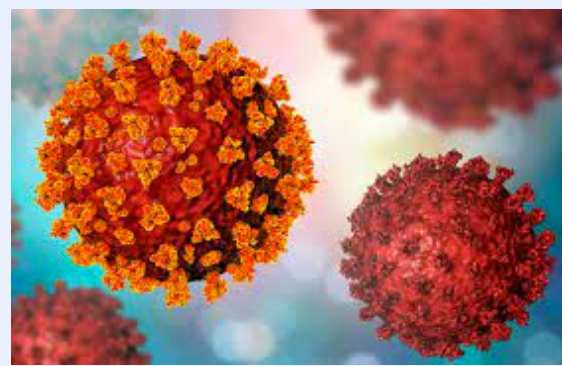


ABSTRACT

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cancer clinical trials is unclear
- This analysis categorizes the impact of the pandemic on cancer clinical trials at a single institution
- The findings demonstrate a statistically significant drop in non-treatment cancer center clinical trial accruals post-COVID-19 but no statistically significant difference in accruals for treatment trials
- The total number of clinical trials demonstrated a trend towards reduction but did not reach statistical significance



BACKGROUND

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on research around the globe
- Recent studies suggest new trials may have decreased by as much as 43%¹ and that cancer patient may now be less likely to enroll in clinic trials²
- Both the immediate and lasting impact of COVID-19 on cancer clinical trials was unclear at the Stanford Cancer Center
- This study aimed to categorize the impact of the pandemic on cancer clinical trials at a single institution

References:

1. Unger, J. M. & Xiao, H. *Trials* **22**, 260 (2021).
2. Fleury, M. E., Farner, A. M. & Unger, J. M. *JAMA Oncol.* **7**, 131–132 (2020).

IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CANCER CLINICAL TRIALS

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METHODS

- A retrospective review was performed using de-identified cancer clinical trial data obtained from Stanford University’s OnCore registry
- The data acquired ranged from January 2018 to September 2020 and consisted of clinical trial level data (total number of open trials, closed trials, suspended trials, and active trials) as well as de-identified individual level data (total participant accruals and participant withdrawals)
- Trials were classified as *treatment trials* (evaluating an essential treatment intervention) and *non-treatment trials* (evaluating a non-essential, non-treatment intervention)
- Data were chronologically classified as prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic (January 2018 through March 2020) or after the COVID-19 Pandemic (April 2020 to September 2020)
- Standard statistical methods were used for the analysis

Figure 1 - Active Trials

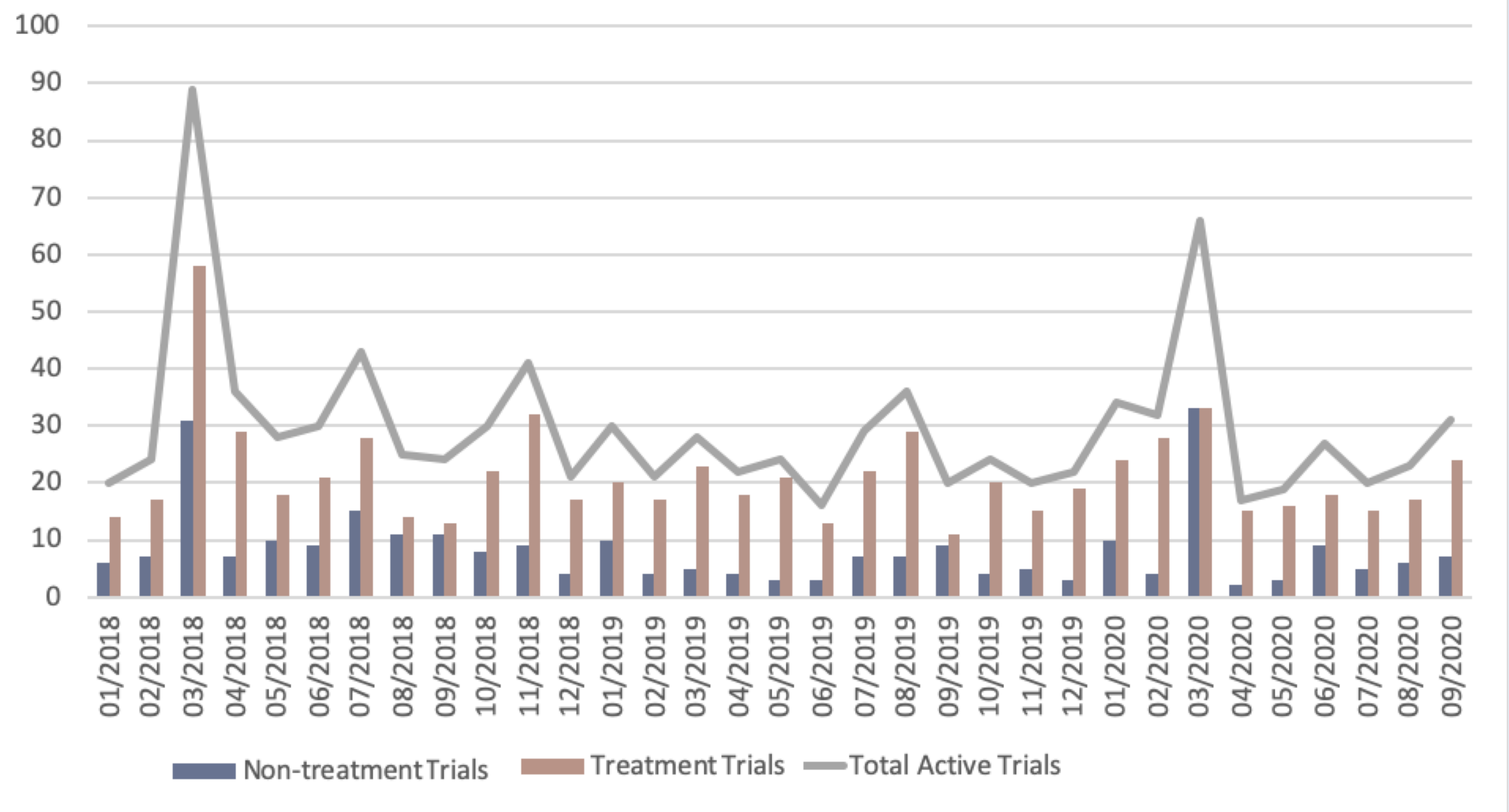
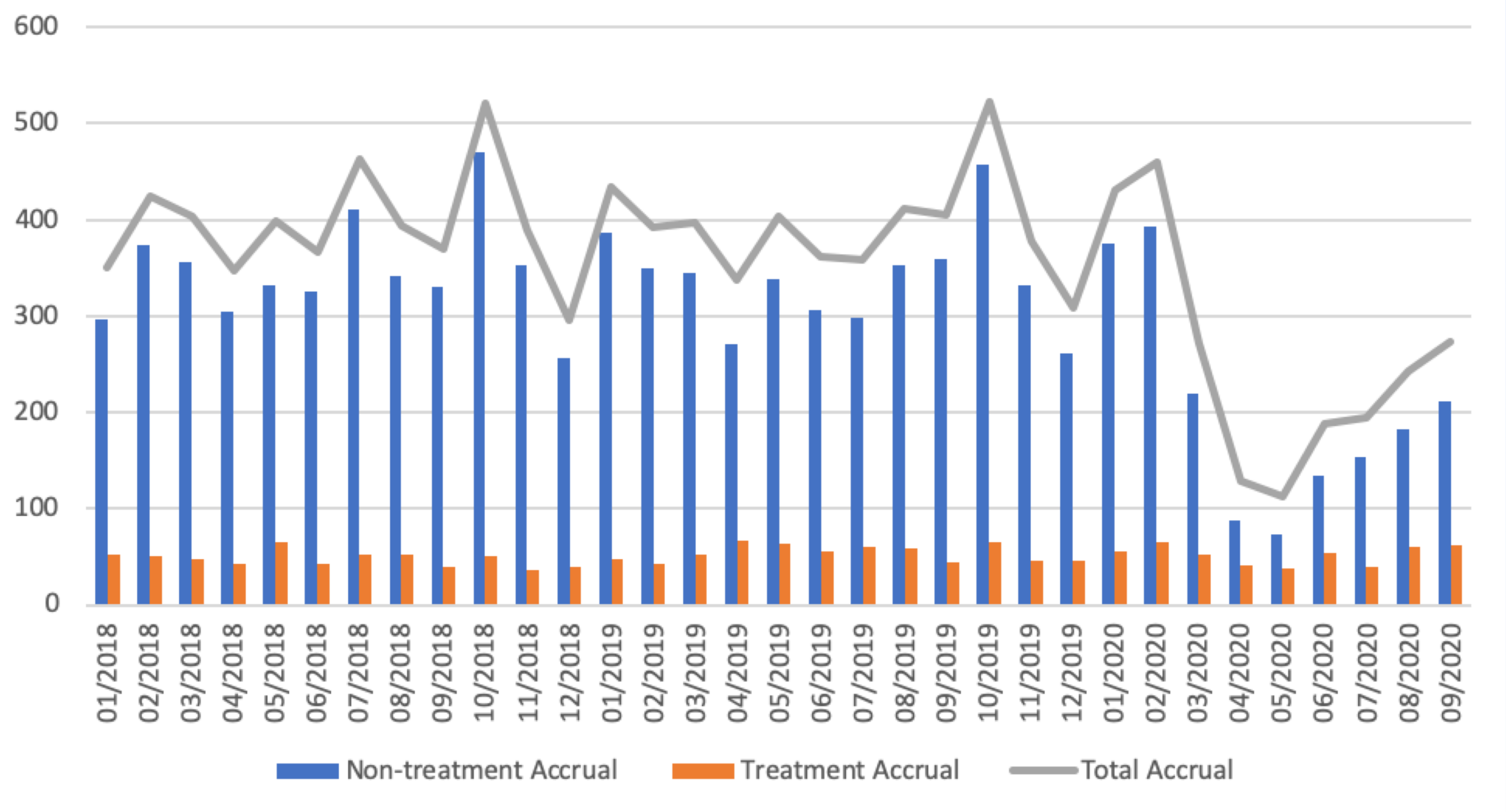


Figure 2 - Monthly Accrual



RESULTS

Total Number of Active Trials:

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mean number of total active clinical trials each month was 31 (27% non-treatment, 73% treatment)
- Following the pandemic, the mean number of cancer trials decreased to 22.8 per month (23% non-treatment, 77% treatment) (p=0.108)

Newly Opened Trials Per Month:

- Before the pandemic the mean number of new cancer clinical trials opening per month was 12.8, compared to 7.8 after the pandemic
- The number of cancer trials opening per month has been slowly increasing post Covid-19 (Figure 1)

Trial Participant Accruals

- A mean of 392 participants per month were enrolled in cancer trials in the year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to just 190 per month after the pandemic (Figure 2)
- Enrollment in non-treatment cancer trials significantly decreased (p<0.0001) following the pandemic
- Enrollment in treatment trials did not significantly change following the pandemic (p=0.279)

CONCLUSIONS

- Treatment trials consistently remained open and maintained a relatively constant accrual rate, whereas less essential non-treatment trials decreased in enrollment
- Future interventions aimed at safely retaining participants in non-treatment trials may be indicated