



An audit of the Outpatient Hysteroscopy Pathway for Endometrial Cancer Diagnoses and Surgical Management

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BACKGROUND

In 2021, the outpatient hysteroscopy (OPH) service at the National Maternity Hospital received 1,007 referrals, representing a 40% increase on 2020. An audit was conducted to review the timelines from point of referral to the OPH service to surgery, for patients diagnosed with endometrial cancer.

AIMS

- To investigate time taken from point of referral to OPH; diagnostic biopsy to staging imaging; completion of staging to primary treatment (surgery)

METHODS

The Gynaecology Oncology MDT data was interrogated to identify patients diagnosed with endometrial cancer through the OPH pathway in 2021. Those patients who were diagnosed by an alternative Gynaecology service were excluded. Patients who did not have surgery as primary treatment were also excluded (n=1).

RESULTS

Between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2021, 17 cases of endometrial cancer were diagnosed through this pathway. The total number of days from referral to completion of primary surgical treatment ranged from 43 to 180 days; mean length of time was 86 days. Following diagnosis, all patients underwent staging imaging within 36 days, with a mean wait time of 24 days. The shortest timepoint in the pathway was from imaging to surgery with a mean of 20 days, reflecting the changes made to the Gynaecological Oncology surgical pathway. For those patients (n=3) with the longest time taken to complete the pathway, a case review was undertaken. One patient's pathway was delayed due to incidental colonic polyp on staging imaging that required colorectal surgery. Patient factors such as appointment rescheduling and DNAs were identified in the other protracted time frames for the pathway in 2021.

Conclusion

The OPH Pathway provides timely investigation, diagnoses and staging of endometrial cancers. In 2021, the OPH Pathway met the KPIs which state that patients should receive a definitive diagnosis within 82 days of referral. However, as demand increases OPH requires more resource.