



AB005. SOH22ABS117. Prospective evaluation of the 2021 National Cancer Control Program (NCCP) mammogram only pathway

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Background: Referral numbers to symptomatic breast clinics in Ireland continue to increase. In April 2021, the National Cancer Control Program (NCCP) launched a new symptomatic breast referral guideline. This included a 'Mammogram Only' stream that enabled women over age 35 with mastalgia and a normal clinical assessment in primary care to proceed to mammography, obviating the need for a clinic visit. This study evaluates the outcomes of the first four months of implementation of the 'Mammogram Only' pathway.

Methods: All women, aged over 35, who were referred to St. Vincent's University Hospital and triaged to the new 'Mammogram Only' pathway from 01/04/2021 to 31/07/2021 were identified for audit. Outcomes assessed were rate of cancer diagnosis, rate of recall for further imaging assessment and rate of biopsy. The comparative cohort were non-urgent referrals (>35 yrs) triaged to our 'Image 1st Pathway' (mammography followed by subsequent clinic visit).

Results: A total of 251 women (median age 52) were assigned to the 'Mammogram Only' pathway and attended for mammography. Eighteen patients (7%) were recalled for further evaluation with 8 (3%) undergoing a biopsy.

Four patients (1.6%) patients were diagnosed with breast cancer. Of the 575 patients during the same time frame who were evaluated through the 'Image 1st Pathway' the corresponding figures were: recall rate 12%, biopsy 6%, cancer 2.6%.

Conclusions: This initial experience of the 'Mammogram Only' pathway confirms the ability of primary care to stratify patients with normal clinical assessment and mastalgia only for mammography with low rates of recall and biopsy and a cancer detection rate of <2%.

Keywords: Breast; biopsy; mammogram; mastalgia; primary care

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Footnote

Conflicts of Interest: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Ethical Statement: The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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