Two-week wait referrals: An observational study of burden versus effectiveness

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Background

Imperial College Healthcare
NHS Trust

	2014 → 2017
Two week wait referrals	+69% (Imperial NHS trust)
Proportion diagnosed with cancer	-2.9% (Hammersmith & Fulham)

Methods

Retrospective review of 100 consecutive 2ww referrals (17 days)

Results

Most common reasons for referral

56% discharged at first appointment

7% discussed at H&N Cancer MDT

3% diagnosed with cancer

Discussion

How do we improve the pick up rate and reduce OPC burden?

1. Remove **Unilateral Tinnitus** (11%) from referral guidelines
2. More initial **investigations** in the community? (as per NICE 2015)
3. **GP training** - Bethell et al 2015: 59% of GPs have never attend training on referrals in Head and Neck Cancer