

An audit of Check4Cancer's private one stop diagnostic breast clinics in the UK



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on behalf of Check4Cancer's UK network of breast surgeons

Background

The safety and clinical governance of private breast cancer diagnostics has been questioned following the Paterson Inquiry in the UK.

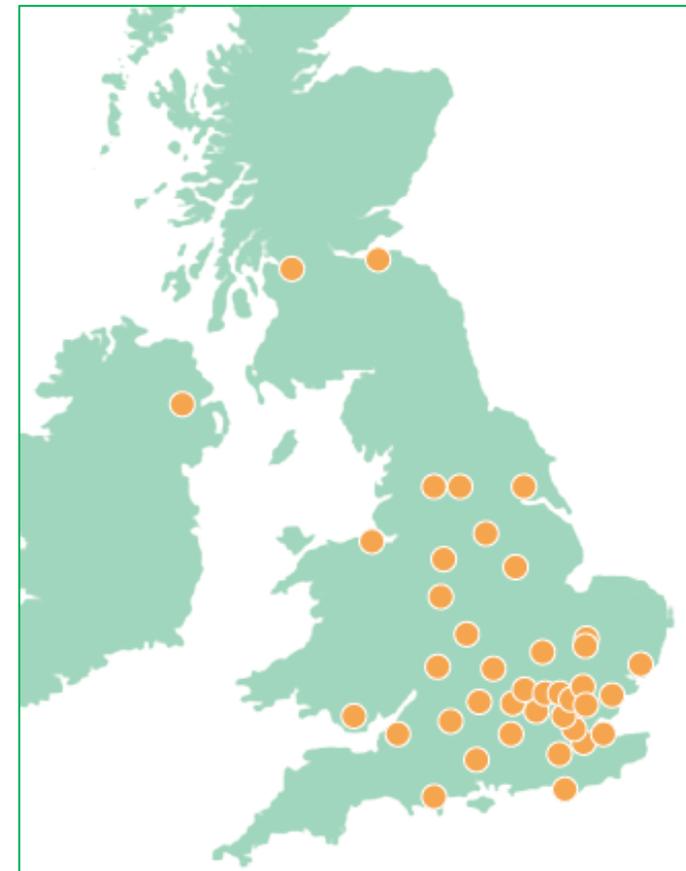
The aim of this study was to audit the clinical and operational results from a UK network of private one-stop breast clinics managed by Check4Cancer

Materials & method

Check4Cancer operates & audits a UK-wide network of 67 private diagnostic one-stop breast clinics delivered by 52 consultant breast surgeons who are all members of the Association of Breast Surgery.

All clinics provide core biopsy-based same-day triple assessment, with a breast radiologist present in clinic.

Clinical, imaging & biopsy results are entered prospectively online to allow individual and collective audit.



Results

From 1.1.16 to 31.12.19, 5188 symptomatic patients had same day triple assessment, of which 54.1% had mammography (49.3% bilateral; 4.8% unilateral) & 88.2% had breast ultrasound (46.8% unilateral; 41.4% bilateral).

Of the 686 guided percutaneous breast needle biopsies (13.2%), 140 were malignant (2.7%). The cancer diagnosis rate rose with increasing age from 1.4% in the under 40s to 10.5% in the over 60s (Table 1).

The average time to the first appointment attended was 3.6 working days, & the average feedback score was 95/100.

Table 1 Cancer detection rate by age

| Age group | No of patients | No without cancer | Prevalence without cancer | Number with cancer | Prevalence of breast cancer | Cancer detection rate |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| < 30 | 617 | 617 | 100.0% | 0 | 0.00% | 0.0% |
| 30-39 | 1,797 | 1,772 | 98.61% | 25 | 1.39% | 1.39% |
| 40-49 | 1,888 | 1,821 | 96.45% | 67 | 3.55% | 3.55% |
| 50-59 | 696 | 668 | 95.98% | 28 | 4.02% | 4.02% |
| 60+ | 190 | 170 | 89.47% | 20 | 10.53% | 10.53% |
| OVERALL | 5,188 | 5,048 | 97.30% | 140 | 2.70% | 2.70% |

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Conclusions

This diagnostic pathway provides rapid access to same day triple assessment for all private symptomatic patients (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence [NICE] quality measure =100%).

The audit confirms strong clinical governance in the private sector and compliance with current professional guidelines.