

Royal College of General Practitioners and Warwick Medical School
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Abstract Submission Form

PRESENTER'S DETAILS	
Title (Prof, Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss) Miss Meriel Vaal m.l.vaal@warwick.ac.uk	
Department or organisation Warwick Medical School and Breast Screening Centre at UHCW	
Category Service Evaluation	
PRESENTATION DETAILS	
Poster Presentation	
Authors Meriel L. Vaal Dr Muthyala Sreenivas	Title of Study Symptomatic referrals to the breast unit for <30yo: what do we find in this cohort?
What's the problem you are tackling? Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosis in the UK. It is rare in under 30 year olds yet makes up a significant proportion of GP referrals. The aim of this service evaluation was to see if current breast referral guidelines can be safely altered in the under 30s to reduce benign referrals without missing cancer.	
How did/will you do it? Data was collected from the medical records of symptomatic breast patients attending UHCW over 6 months.	
What did you find? 482 out of the 2583 patients in attendance were under 30 (22%). All patients were examined by the breast surgical team. 83% had imaging performed. 12% had a biopsy. 99.4% of women were either normal or had benign breast disease. 3 women had cancer, 0.6%, for whom suspicion was only raised at imaging. There were no obvious features on clinical examination to distinguish benign from malignant conditions in these 3 women.	
Why does this matter? Too few women in this cohort had cancer to be able to safely draw conclusions for stricter referral criteria, a much larger study is needed. Current referral guidelines need to be modified. A new referral pathway is planned at UHCW, direct to radiology, for symptomatic patients under 30. This will relieve pressure on the surgical team.	