



Auditing the Outcome of Thyroid Cancer Multi-disciplinary Team Meetings



1. Introduction

- The multidisciplinary team meeting (MDM) is fundamental to the modern management of patients with all types of cancer (1).
- It is expected that the MDM recommendations are followed (or if not, the reason for variance clearly documented) as they represent the consensus advice of a panel of experts with a different role in the patient's management (2).
- There has not yet been an audit in the department following the patients care pathway after discussion in the thyroid MDM.

2. Aims

- To investigate the communication of the MDM conclusion in the patients notes, with signed acknowledgement by the lead clinician.
- To assess whether the MDM recommendation was followed, or a rationale provided if not.

3. Method

- Design-A retrospective study. Data collected from the MDM forms and patient records.
- Location- Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS
- Inclusion criteria- 1st 30 consecutive thyroid cases referred to the MDM in 2012 by clinicians in the Northern Cancer Network (NCN)
- Data collected- Patient demographics, date of MDM, recommendation(s), lead clinician, communication in notes, action taken.
- Standards set by the National Cancer Action Team (2).

4. Findings

Fig 1. Standard 1: 100% of cases should have the MDM outcome reported in the patient's notes.

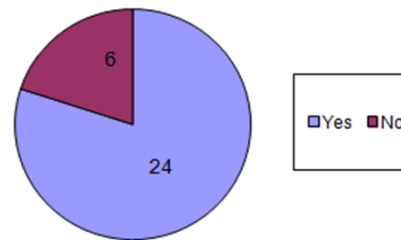
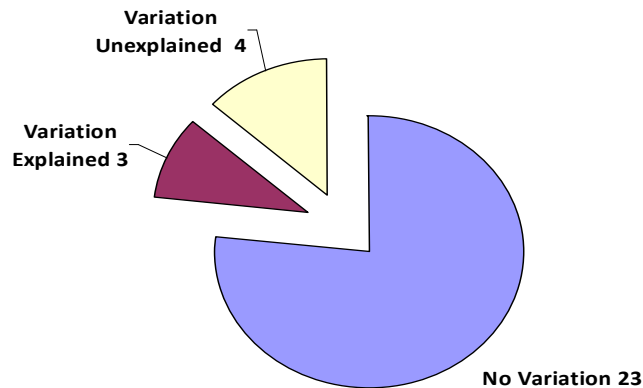


Fig 2. Standard 2: In 100% of cases the action taken should be the same as the MDM recommendation or, if different, a rationale should be clearly documented in the notes.



5. Limitations

- one patient had yet to be followed-up following MDM discussion.

6. Discussion

- Neither of the 100% targets were met.
- In only 80% of patients was the MDM recommendation filed in the case notes.
- In 7/30 cases management did not match the MDM recommendation, but in only 3/7 was a rationale provided for this variation.
- In all 4 cases with unexplained variation, MDM decision was not filed in case notes.
- Overall communication needs to improve to ensure the MDM is being used effectively to guide appropriate patient management.

7. Recommendations

- Non-filing of MDM advice in case notes is 100% associated with non-adherence to the MDM recommendations.
- MDM & NCN members across the different hospital sites should be reminded that responsibility of the patient's lead clinician is to ensure that MDM outcomes are filed.
- Furthermore, in cases where the MDM recommendation is no longer deemed to be appropriate and a different path way is followed, a clear rationale for this variance should be documented.

8. References

- 1) Gill et al, Clinical Oncology, Sept 2008
 - 2) National Cancer Action Team, The Characteristics of an Effective Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), Feb 2010
- Thank you to Dr Richard Quinton & Michelle Shield.