

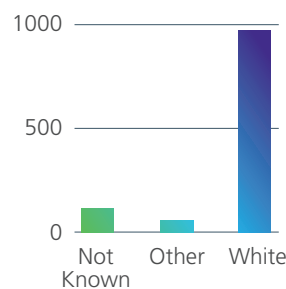
Primary Care Lung Cancer Audit on patients diagnosed with Lung Cancer in 2023/24 across Wessex

As part of a Wessex Cancer Alliance Local Improvement Scheme, PCNs across Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Dorset completed a standardised audit template reviewing lung cancers diagnosed between April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024. These findings were analysed by WCA GPs, and a summary of findings are below.

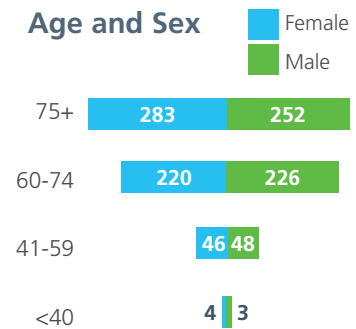
1,082
Total Patients

Demographics

Ethnicity

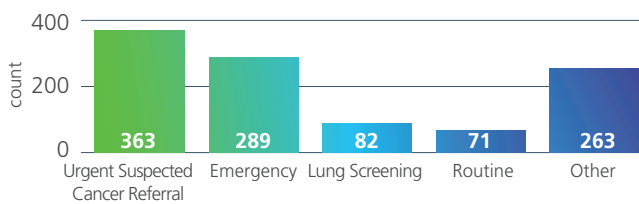


Age and Sex

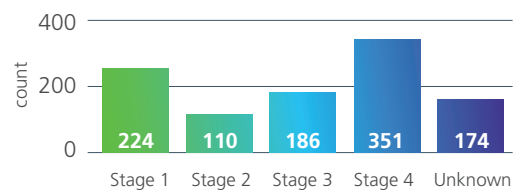


Diagnosis

Route to Diagnosis



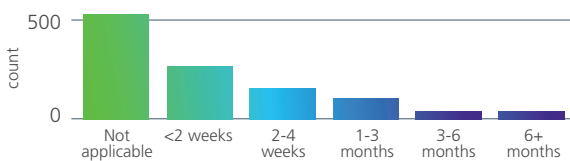
Stage at Diagnosis



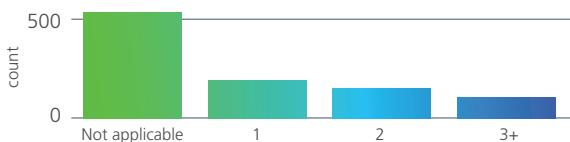
* at time of audit, Lung Cancer Screening was 40% rolled out across Wessex

Primary Care Interval

Time from first clinical contact to first referral



Number of clinical contacts prior to referral



*where the clinician identified the consultation as related to the lung cancer diagnosis

Risk Factors

% with Occupational Exposure

10%

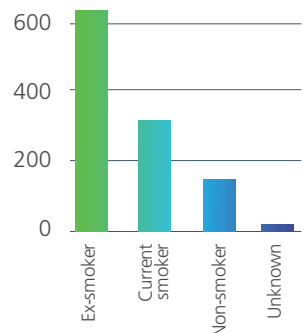
% of Patients with COPD

37%

% with Family History of Lung Cancer

5%

Smoking



Investigations

16% had raised platelets

12% had a normal Chest X-Ray (CXR)

*excludes those not seen in primary care prior to diagnosis

Primary Care Interval

26% had 3 or more consultations prior to referral

8% took longer than 3 months before referral

*excludes those not seen in primary care prior to diagnosis

Symptom Presentation

% with shortness of breath
48%

% with new or worsening cough
44%

Other symptoms %
32%

% with weight loss
25%

% with persistent chest/shoulder pain
20%

% that are tired all the time
19%

% with no symptoms
18%

% with haemoptysis
9%

Delay Themes

based on qualitative analysis of audit report
(in order of frequency they occurred)

Delays

% where there
was a delay

11%



1. Symptom presentation

highest cause of delay for referral was due to non-specific nature of presentation.



2. Secondary care delays

25 cases reported secondary care delays, which were varied*.



3. Normal CXR

26 patients had a normal CXR which falsely reassured patients and/or clinicians.



4. COPD delay

23 causes of delay were due to diagnostic overshadowing from COPD.



5. Shoulder/back pain

20 cases delayed by this presentation.



6. Patient delays

various causes



7. Language

5 cases highlighted a language barrier



8. Other factors

including Long Covid

* this audit focused on reviewing the primary care interval only and did not explore the pathway beyond the point of referral.

Next Steps / Recommendations

- Support for primary care around safety netting, lung cancer education and clinical system templates
- Full roll out of Lung Cancer Screening by 2029
- Increase public awareness of lung cancer symptoms via lung campaigns and public engagement
- Improve primary care access to investigations
- Identify opportunities to reduce smoking rates across Wessex