How MDCs could improve early cancer diagnosis

How delays can occur in the current system

1st GP visit
- GP referral
- Time waiting
- 1st specialist
- Patient with non-specific but concerning symptoms
- Result: Nothing found ‘watchful wait’
- Late cancer diagnosis
- Other diagnosis
- Returning to the GP after visiting each specialist slows down the diagnosis and increases the likelihood of patient disengagement

2nd GP visit
- GP referral
- Time waiting
- 2nd specialist
- *If more medical specialists seen, pattern continues until a result is declared
- Result: Nothing found ‘watchful wait’
- Late cancer diagnosis
- Other diagnosis

3rd GP visit
- GP referral
- Time waiting
- 3rd specialist
- Result: Nothing found ‘watchful wait’
- Earlier cancer diagnosis
- Other diagnosis

Proposed MDC system
- Access point: Could be GP or other professional referral as well as self-referral eg. internet, telephone
- Specialists working together
- Pilot will determine the best configuration for specialists
- Rapid turnaround of triage tests and investigative diagnostic tests leads to earlier diagnosis

Together we will beat cancer

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