Cancer Recognition, Referral and the Single Cancer Pathway

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Diagnosing Cancer In Primary Care...
The diagnostic process

>15% of adults have alarm symptoms every year

"The ocean of symptoms"

And ALL the other symptoms

In 6% of consultations, the GP suspects serious disease incl. cancer (1-2 per day)

Attend the doctor

50% referred, primarily to imaging
50% ‘wait and see’

Referred to secondary care

5% have cancer (1 per month)

Cancer

Frode Olesen
“I know the answer is here somewhere...”
But don’t worry, here’s a guideline to help you!
And another one...
And another one...
There are a lot of options...

- USC / Two week wait
- Urgent
- Direct to test
- Straight to test
- Routine
- Advice
- Primary Care Investigation
- Safety netting
Countries where GPs are more willing to test have better cancer outcomes

Readiness of PCPs to investigate low risk symptoms that could be indicative of lung cancer and 1-year relative survival.

Source: Cancer Research UK; ICBP
We are improving... slowly!

Source: Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit’s National Cancer Registry [www.wcisu.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.wcisu.wales.nhs.uk)
Not all pathways are the same...
Cancer: Wales' new waiting times results a UK-first

Cancer referrals have risen by almost 50% in the past five years
Numbers of Total USC referrals in Wales

Number of USC Referrals in Wales by year between Jan 2013 - Dec 2017
Conversion rates for all cancers by HB in 2017
Detection rates for all cancers by HB in 2017

Detection Rate for all cancer sites by health board for 2017

- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board: 45.3%
- Hywel Dda University Health Board: 44.2%
- Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board: 47.1%
- Cwm Taf University Health Board: 33.1%
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board: 44.1%
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board: 54.1%
- Wales: 44.8%
Adjusted numbers of patients with cancer diagnosed via emergency presentation sub-route or any other diagnostic route, estimated using a multivariable multinomial logistic regression, for AE-EP, GP-EP (reference outcome), Other-EP, 2WW, non-emergency GP ref...
Single Cancer Pathway - so what??

- What matters gets measured
- vs
- What’s measured is what matters
- Whole system approach
- Not just about “two week wait”
- Will drive the need for improved access to diagnostics, support and advice
- Development of “National Optimal Pathways”
What now...