there has been an almost instantaneous transition from face-to-face doctor-patient consultations to the use of tele-medicine. The aim of this study was to evaluate outcomes from referrals via the upper gastrointestinal two week wait pathway (UGI TWW) made by GPs using telephone assessment during the covid era.

Methods This was a retrospective database review of all patients referred via the UGI TWW pathway between 1st March 2019 - 28 Feb 2020 pre-covid (PC) and during the covid era (CE) during 1st March 2020 - 28 Feb 2021.

All referrals received by Imperial Healthcare trust were included in this study. The standardised referral proforma was reviewed to determine patient characteristics and symptoms. Investigations undertaken and subsequent diagnoses were recorded.

Results A total of 153 referrals were included in this study, 83 PC and 70 during CE.

GP consultations PC were conducted in over 95% of patients, compared to 16% in CE, where the remaining 84% were handled virtually or by telephone. PC the average age of patients referred was 66 (range 34-92) with a M:F ratio of 0.77:1, this compared to CE 60 which was a significant difference (p value = 0.025226) (range 19-86) with a M:F ratio of 0.79:1. Language based demographic data showed patients coded as having a non-english primary language made up 21.69% of the pre-covid cohort and 25.71% of patients in the covid era cohort.

When the outcomes of investigations were examined, we found that GI cancer was found in 4% PC compared to 13% CE. The diagnosis of benign pathologies was 86% PC compared to 41% CE (p value < 0.00001 which is significant), while no pathology was detected in 10% PC compared to 39% CE (p value = 0.000022 which is significant). 6% were unknown as these patients were either referred to their local hospitals or we lost follow up.

Abstract PTH-53 Figure 1 Breakdown of diagnosis

Conclusion GP telephone consultation for upper gastrointestinal symptoms results did not result in a change to the rate of cancer detection. It was however noted that a greater proportion of patients with no pathology underwent investigation.

PTH-54 AN AUDIT ON THE USE OF LARGE VOLUME PARACENTESIS CHECKLIST IN PATIENTS WITH CIRRHOSIS

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Introduction Standardised procedure checklist for large volume paracentesis (LVP) has been shown to improve rates of documentation and reduce procedure related complications (Fyson et al; 2018). A modified LVP checklist from the British Society of Gastroenterology was implemented at Exeter Hospital in September 2019 as a patient-safety measure. An audit pre and post checklist was conducted to assess uptake and outcomes.

Methods 48 patients with ascites due to decompensated cirrhosis who had LVP were reviewed retrospectively through case note interrogation (24 pre- and 24 post-LVP checklist introduction). Malignant ascites was excluded. Patient demographics, procedure documentation and outcomes were collected. Data was analysed using SPSS. The chi-square test and Fisher's exact value were used to compare percentages between groups.

Results The patient characteristics in both groups are shown in Table 1. The majority of patients had alcohol-related cirrhosis (71% in both groups). About 2/3 cases in both groups were acute inpatient procedures. Documentation of informed consent using consent forms improved significantly from 8% pre-checklist to 63% ($p=0.0002$). Other areas of improvement included: procedural documentation of aseptic technique use (67% to 92%, $p=0.07$), instrument used (29% to 83%, $p<0.0001$) and drain removal at 6 hours (67% to 88%, $p=0.168$). Post-drain removal instructions documentation worsened from 54% (pre) to 42% (post). Documentation of fluid polymorph count only occurred in 3 (13%) pre- and 9 (38%) post-checklist ($p=0.093$). Complications within 24 hours were minor; hypotension and minor bleeding in pre- and abdominal pain in post-checklist group ($p=1.00$). No patients developed spontaneous bacterial peritonitis or died within 28 days. Overall mortality was 5 (21%) and 4 (17%) in the pre- and post-checklist group ($p=1.00$).

Conclusions The LVP checklist resulted in overall improvement in documentation with significant improvement of documenting procedural informed consent. The complication rate was

Abstract PTH-54 Table 1 Patient characteristics

Characteristics	Pre Checklist n=24	Post Checklist n=24
Male	20 (83%)	17 (71%)
Age (median, range)	61 (49-81) years	60 (39-87) years
Platelet (median, range)	152 (44-315) $\times 10^9/L$	157 (39-400) $\times 10^9/L$
INR (median, range)	1.3 (1.0-3.6)	1.3 (1.0-3.1)
Volume drained	7 (1.2 - 13.5) L	6.3 (1.7 - 15) L
20% HAS prescribed for every 3 Litres drained	21 (88%)	24 (100%)
	3 – missing fluid charts	

low with no mortality within 28-days. Post-drain removal instructions and documentation of ascitic fluid results require improvement. Increasing awareness on the importance of these sections in minimal standards of care amongst doctors and nurses will be the key factor in ensuring continual improvement in the quality of patient care.

PTH-55 **NEXT AVAILABLE PLEASE: REAL WORLD WAITING TIMES AND AVAILABILITY OF ENDOSCOPY FOR LOWER GASTROINTESTINAL BLEEDING**

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Introduction Current British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) guidelines recommend all patients admitted to hospital with lower gastrointestinal bleeding (LGIB) undergo an inpatient colonoscopy on the next available list as part of providing a 7-day endoscopy service. The real-world availability of a 7-day service and adherence to this guidance is unknown.

Methods Patients aged ≥ 16 years admitted with LGIB to 7 hospital trusts from June 1st–Aug 31st 2019 were included. Data on presentation, endoscopy, time to procedure and outcomes were recorded. We established data from participating Trusts on their current endoscopy services in relation to BSG guidance.

Results 407 patients across 7 NHS Trusts presenting with LGIB were included. Mean age was 59.8 (17–96), with a mean Oakland score of 14.5 (SD 6.78). 14.7% received a LGI endoscopic investigation during admission (3.4% colonoscopy, 11.8% flexible sigmoidoscopy), with 25.7% of admitted patients undergoing their LGI endoscopy as an outpatient. Median time from admission to inpatient flexible sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy was 2.5 days (58 hours) and >3 days (80 hours) respectively. 43% (3/7) of Trusts provided daily inpatient endoscopy lists able to accommodate inpatient colonoscopies, with colonoscopies being ad hoc/no regular slots in a further 43% of Trusts. At weekends, 86% (6/7) of hospitals provided endoscopy lists, however of these, 83% stated colonoscopies were not routinely performed at weekends.

Conclusions Current real-world practice is not in keeping with BSG guidelines. The majority of patients admitted with LGIB do not undergo inpatient LGI endoscopy (colonoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy) and the waiting time for a 'next available' slot can be several days. LGI endoscopic assessment for LGIB is more commonly performed as an outpatient. Most Trusts do not currently provide a 7-day endoscopy service, the majority with no regular weekend or weekday colonoscopy slots for patients with LGIB.

PTH-56 **ASSESSMENT OF HIGH-RISK RECTAL POLYPS : LESSONS FROM A SPECIALIST MDT**

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Introduction Recent guidelines have emphasised the importance of avoiding piecemeal resection of polyps that might contain malignancy. Moreover, superficial T1 cancers can be cured by local resection, avoiding the need for surgery. Evaluation of significant polyps and early colorectal cancers (SPECC) to determine the depth of invasion is of upmost importance. Assessment is difficult and no gold standard exists. In this study we evaluate the performance of our specialist MDT and, where sub-optimal assessment resulted in a poor outcome, we attempt to derive lessons that might be learnt.

Methods Referrals to the Specialist Early Rectal Cancer MDT were reviewed from Jan 2014 – Dec 2019. At the time of referral, they were categorised into: Confirmed early rectal cancers, referred for a primary treatment decision; inadvertently excised cancers, referred for possible adjuvant treatment and SPECC lesions, referred for a primary treatment decision. Each SPECC lesion was retrospectively split into 4 categories based on the MDT's risk of submucosal invasion: Low (category A), suitable for piecemeal resection; intermediate (B), suitable for en-bloc resection; high (C), suitable for TEMS and very high (D), not suitable for local excision. Where not explicit, an expert consensus was reached. Each assessment modality was compared to the MDT recommendation and final histological staging.

Results 581 referrals were made, 69 didn't meet referral criteria and 5 patients didn't engage or died before assessment. 57 patients were referred to consider adjuvant treatment for an inadvertently resected cancer. Of the remaining 450, 100 lesions were judged to be definite cancers and the remaining 350 were classed as SPECC lesions. Patients with SPECC lesions had a median age of 70 years, 2:1 male. The median and mean size of lesions was 38mm and 42.8mm respectively, range 10–150mm. Just over 20% of the lesions referred were larger than 60mm. Category A contained 174 lesions with a 4.8% cancer rate (CR). Cat B: 108 lesions, 8.3% CR. Cat C: 59 lesions, 54.2% CR. Cat D 9 lesions, 57.1% CR. 20% of the lesions reported as mucosal (or not seen) on MRI were malignant compared with 10% on EUS. 8 malignant lesions were assigned to the low-risk category and subjected to pEMR. Adequate EUS staging was only available in 4 of these lesions. 4 out of the 11 lesions referred for surgery were benign.

Conclusion 83% of malignant polyps were triaged to an *en-bloc* excision. The risk of malignancy reinforces the importance of evaluating SPECC lesions carefully. Exactly how the depth of invasion was predicted by the MDT is difficult to determine retrospectively. However, endoscopic evaluation, pre-resection dysplasia grade and EUS findings carry the greatest sway. MRI evaluation appears to be poor in predicting the depth of invasion for tumours $<T2$. Ila+Ilc morphology and high grade dysplasia were the two greatest predictors of malignancy, 44% and 35% respectively.

PTH-57 **COLLABORATION BETWEEN ACUTE MEDICAL AND HEPATOLOGY TEAM SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVES OUTCOMES OF PATIENTS WITH DECOMPENSATED CIRRHOSIS**

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