

Compliance with the BTS guidelines for follow-up of indeterminate pulmonary nodule on CT.

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Aims:

To evaluate whether the NLG radiology department have met the BTS guidelines for follow up of indeterminate pulmonary nodules.

Method:

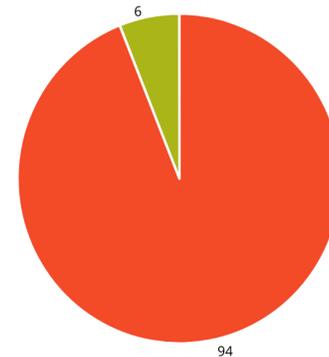
- A retrospective review of 50 patients scanned in Northern Lincolnshire and Goole's NHS foundation trust who were found to have incidental pulmonary nodules.
- Initial scans in 2015/16 .
- with follow ups ranging as late as 2017.
- Scans with nodules over 5 millimeters were required to undergo follow up.
- With those 5-6mm requiring 12 month CT review.
- 6-8mm requiring 3 and 12 month review and over.
- >8mm with a composite risk of cancer less than 10% requiring CT surveillance.

Results:

- This audit aimed to evaluate two main statistics. Firstly whether CTs in which incidental pulmonary nodules were identified, had adequate recommendation from the reporting radiologist for a repeat CT in accordance with BTS guidance. With an adequate target of 95% set out by the RCR.
- Secondly whether those same patients did in fact have the follow up CTs/surveillance within the time recommended.
- **94%** of the patients with incidental pulmonary nodules had recommendations by the reporting radiologists for follow up in accordance with BTS guidelines.
- **90%** of the patients underwent follow ups in accordance with BTS guidelines relative to their nodule size and type.

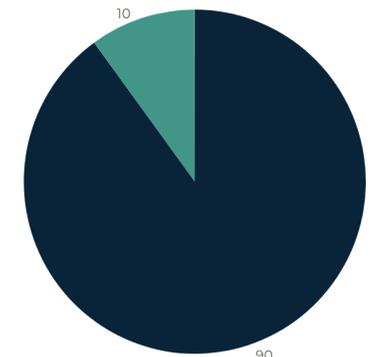
Conclusion: the standards of 95% both for compliance with recommendation of follow ups and actual follows ups themselves were not met, and therefore suggestions should be made to improve compliance after which the data can be re-audited.

Recommendation rate %



● Recommendations ● Not Recommended

FOLLOW UPS %



● Follow Ups ● No Follow Ups

Action Plan

- Introduction of departmental protocols and templates for reporting incidental pulmonary nodules.
- Display RCR iRefer recommendation CC28 summary table as a poster or as a link available for viewing on a reporting workstation.

Reference

Denis Remedios. Compliance with the British Thoracic Society guidelines for follow-up of indeterminate pulmonary nodules on CT [Online]. Available from: <https://www.rcr.ac.uk/audit/compliance-british-thoracic-society-guidelines-follow-indeterminate-pulmonary-nodules-ct>

BMJ. British Thoracic Society guidelines for the investigation and management of pulmonary nodules: accredited by NICE.[Online]. Available from: https://thorax.bmj.com/content/70/Suppl_2/ii1