

CT Thorax screening for Covid-19 - Does it cause more harm than good?

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15th
April

RCR & RCS released new guidelines: pre-op screening CT Thorax advised for high risk elective patients



UHB trust was the busiest by total Covid-19 deaths during the pandemic

We enacted the guidelines ASAP & audited every case



15th
May

Subsequent intercollegiate statement released: advised cessation of routine pre-operative CT screening in all but a few select cases

Method: Retrospective audit of all patients undergoing CT thorax for Covid-19 screening 15th April - 15th May 2020

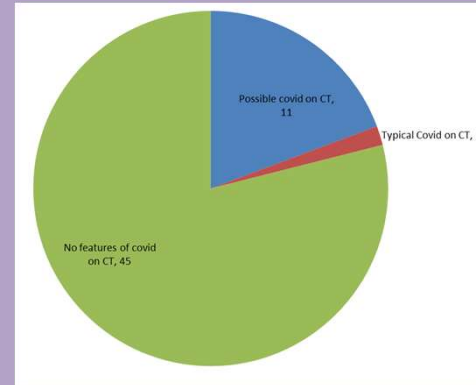
Results: 57 screening CTs undertaken

No demonstrable benefit

- 12 reported as possible/typical Covid-19, none of which were proven on subsequent swab - **high false positive rate**

Potential for harm:

- 1 patient swab positive, without any findings on CT - **false negative**
- 2 patients scanned then discharged due to lack of bed space - **scan not needed**
- 1 surgery postponed due to false positive CT screening result - **false positive**



5% of cases potentially came to harm as a result of the screening programme

What went well?

- ✓ Quick response to a developing unprecedented situation
- ✓ Excellent communication & learning within the MDT

What can we improve for a possible second peak of Covid-19?

- Do not use CT as a screening tool for Covid-19 due to poor accuracy
- Rely on RT-PCR testing for Covid-19 pre-op rule out