Outcome of Colposcopy in women over 50 years of age in a district general hospital in England

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Abstract
The NHS Cervical Screening Programme was introduced in 1988. It saves approximately 1,300 lives and prevents 3,900 cases of cervical cancer per year in the UK. The current protocol includes screening women between the ages of 25 – 64 years. It is less efficient in detecting CIN III in women over 50 years of age but is more efficient in preventing invasive cancer in this group.

Objective
We conducted an audit to compare our colposcopy outcomes in this age group with the current UK national and local guidelines.

Method
Data was validated from Colposcopy clinic between January - December 2012. 36 case notes retrospectively reviewed. Patients notes were assessed for: indications for referrals, HPV test status, nature of the Colposcopy examination, biopsy margins and follow-up including multi-disciplinary team (MDT) referrals.

Results
52.7% had an unsatisfactory colposcopy impression. 55.5% had high HPV status, 11.1% HPV status were not known. 44.4 % biopsy was indicated & 19.4% required treatment. 16.6% discussed in MDT. 6.2% were diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma & referred to cancer centre for treatment (stage 1b). 5.5 % test of cure was not performed. 55% were discharged after follow-up visits.

Conclusion
Our practice is compliant with the Trust and National guidelines. All abnormal smears were picked up & appropriately managed. In our group only three required repeated treatment to obtain clear margins. We recommend a prospective re-audit using larger numbers and a forthcoming electronic database with documentation of HPV status & test of cure.

References
1. NHSCSP May 2010 (www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/cervical/)