

Screening and Optimisation of Elective Surgical Awaiting Lists



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Introduction

It is predicted that over 4,000,000 patients will be on an elective waiting list in England by 2030 (1) with increased demand, age and frailty following COVID (2). The importance of early assessment of frailty and geriatrician input to allow optimisation and shared decision making is key. A Geriatrician led perioperative clinic was established in Swansea Bay for patients on elective general surgical waiting lists in September 2023.

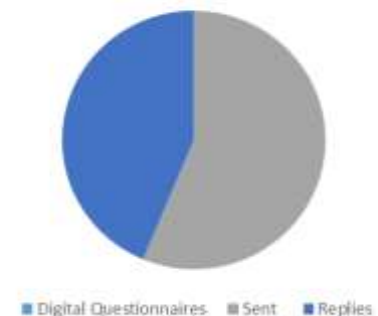
Method

Using an electronic Power Business Intelligence Frailty Flag, we highlighted patients and screened either electronically or via telephone using a combination of CFS and CRANE multi domain questionnaire; covering a number of areas including continence, falls and cognition. The outcomes are reviewed by a geriatrician and directed to appropriate referral routes e.g face-to-face perioperative clinic, continence services or virtual wards. All patients who decide to continue on their journey to surgery are given advice r.e. operative risk, diet and fitness along with optimisation of medications and tests such as echo to minimise delays going forward.

Results

- Over 250 patients screened to date – either Digitally/Paper/Telephone. Digital responders have an average CFS of 4.48
- Over 50 (~20%) have decided against surgery following shared decision making demonstrating cost savings of approx. £200,000.
- New diagnoses including dementia and incontinence.
- Over 20 patients have accepted referral to continence services.

Digital Questionnaire Response



Conclusion

Formalising a perioperative clinic has allowed improvements in patient care and cost savings. Patient feedback has been very good.

We have obtained funding to screen all existing elective patients >65 on general surgical waiting lists and aim to screen yearly going forward looking for new frailty syndromes. The next step is initiation of frailty screening at point of referral on WCCG referral.

Reference

- 1.Forecasting waiting lists for elective procedures and surgery in England: a modelling study
Dmitri Nepogodiev, Radhika Acharya, Daoud Chaudhry, James,C Glasbey, Benjamin Harris, Elizabeth Li, Kate Jolly, Aneel Bhangu
- 2.Nowcasting waiting lists for elective procedures and surgery in England: a modelling study COVIDSurg Collaborativ,Lancet November 2023