

# Cancer diagnosis in Scottish primary care: Results from the National Cancer Diagnosis Audit

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## Background

This research aimed to characterise cancer diagnosis in Scottish primary care and draw comparisons with cancer diagnostic activity in England.



## Methods

Diagnostic pathway data collected on cancer diagnoses in 2014 from GP medical records and national cancer registries in Scotland and England. The analysis compared patient characteristics, diagnostic intervals and pathways.



## Results

- Data on 2,014 cancer diagnoses, from 7.7% of Scottish general practices
- 71.5% presented to GPs
- 37.4% referred via Urgent-Suspected Cancer route
- Median primary care interval was 5 days (IQR 0-23 days)
- Median diagnostic interval was 30 days (IQR 13-68)
- Variation by cancer site: Longer diagnostic intervals found in rural patients and those with a greater number of comorbidities



## Conclusions

Most cancer diagnoses in Scotland presented to a GP first and GPs referred and diagnosed the majority quickly. There were variations by cancer-site, with intervals longest for the most rural patients. GPs appear to perform equally in Scotland and England. Given the growing variation between health systems, future comparative audits may be beneficial.

Full reference: Murchie P, Adam R, McNair E, Swann R, Witt J, Wood R, Weller D. Cancer diagnosis in Scottish primary care: Results from the National Cancer Diagnosis Audit. *Eur J Cancer Care (Engl)*. 2020 May;29(3):e13234

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