

Evaluating Dermatology Input in Vulval Care Through Visiting Clinics

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Background

- Vulval care is often provided separately by Gynaecology, Dermatology and Sexual health services.
- Our Trust has 3 main sites and on one site the Gynaecology Lead has wanted to improve vulval services for patients by increasing multi-specialty working.
- Sexual Health (SH) physicians have been attending clinics with Gynaecologists but there has previously been no capacity for Dermatology input.
- In 2022, a Dermatology consultant specialising in vulval dermatoses joined either the Gynaecology or the Sexual Health physician to provide multidisciplinary vulval clinics for complex cases or those the clinicians wanted reviewed.
- **Aim:** To analyse the impact of a visiting dermatologist on the Vulval service at this site.

Which cases were selected for these clinics?

- "Non-responsive to standard treatment"
- "Unusual non-cancerous appearance which did not fit a common diagnosis"

Main findings

3 clinics over the year

Total of 18 patients

16 were follow-up patients

(9 had more than 1 prior appointment, 2 prior telephone consultation);

2 new referrals

Dermatology input:

In 13 out of 18 cases confirmed the diagnosis (in 3 of which it added a secondary diagnosis)

5/18 provided an alternative diagnosis

No patients were referred to other services

6 patients were discharged

12 patients required further follow-up

At the further follow-up visit:

5/12 patients had been successfully managed and were discharged

3/12 required subsequent follow-up

(4/12 still to be reviewed)

Colleagues feedback

"Reassurance to the patients who had been suffering a long time"

"We are able to see all the patients referred and manage them locally."

"Number of patients needing referral to the Dermatology Vulval clinic have reduced over the period of time."

"The Pando app could be used to securely send images to Dermatologist for an opinion"

"Enhanced knowledge and confidence in managing some patients"

"Working with a dermatologist is good CPD and helps reinforce good practice"

"It is a useful reminder, particularly of terminology used for description of various lesions (useful for the non-specialist!)"

"Enhanced learning, better management plan for patient, improved pathways for referral"

"We share the same medical photography service which can also be useful for second opinion or review after"

Conclusion

- Dermatology input received positive feedback from our colleagues; it was felt to be a valuable addition to the joint clinic.
- Dermatology had a positive impact in helping to manage these patients and discharging from secondary care after successful management.
- In a time of workforce challenges in Dermatology, we have found visiting clinics useful to increase the efficiency of a vulval clinic and to improve the knowledge and confidence of other colleagues in managing vulval conditions.