

Audit, practice review and collaborative working result in a high number of appropriate referrals from the CATS team to Secondary Care Orthopaedic Services

Sally Blair Orthopaedic Physiotherapy Practitioner

The **Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service (CATS)** is a Physiotherapy led interface service based within the hospital and satellite clinics. We triage and manage patients referred by local GP's. If onwards referral is deemed appropriate, referrals are made to either clinical therapy or secondary care services. This yearly audit aims to evaluate the number of referrals that are deemed appropriate for secondary care services, and reflect upon those that are deemed inappropriate.

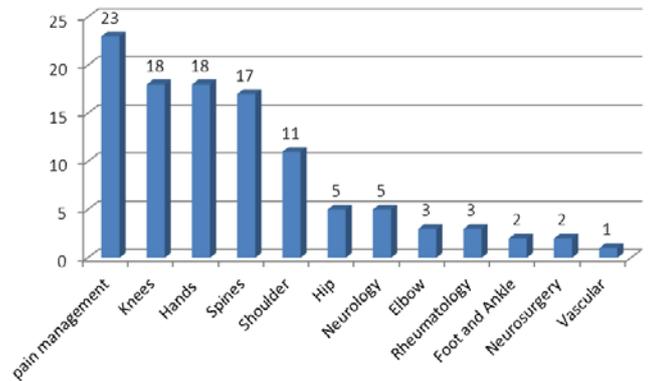
An appropriate referral was classed as;

- The patient received surgery
- The patient received an injection not available in CATS (e.g. spinal injection)
- The patient required an investigation which could not be requested by the CATS service
- The patient specifically requested a referral to a secondary care service (patient choice)

Sample Group: All patients who were assessed or seen as a follow up in the CATS clinics throughout the month of November 2015

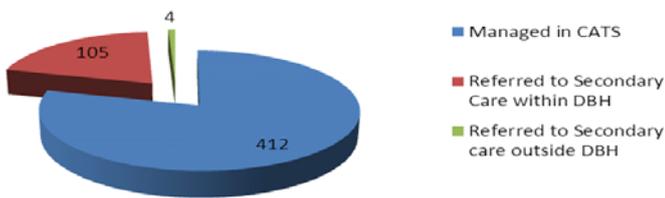
n = 521

Referrals to Secondary Care from CATS
November 2015



Of the **109** patients referred to Secondary care, we received no feedback from 12 (11%). We were therefore unable to make a judgement as to whether these referrals were appropriate. Therefore of the **97** patients where information was received regarding the ultimate outcome from the secondary care consultation, **89% were deemed suitable for secondary care referral.**

Outcome of CATS referrals received
November 2015



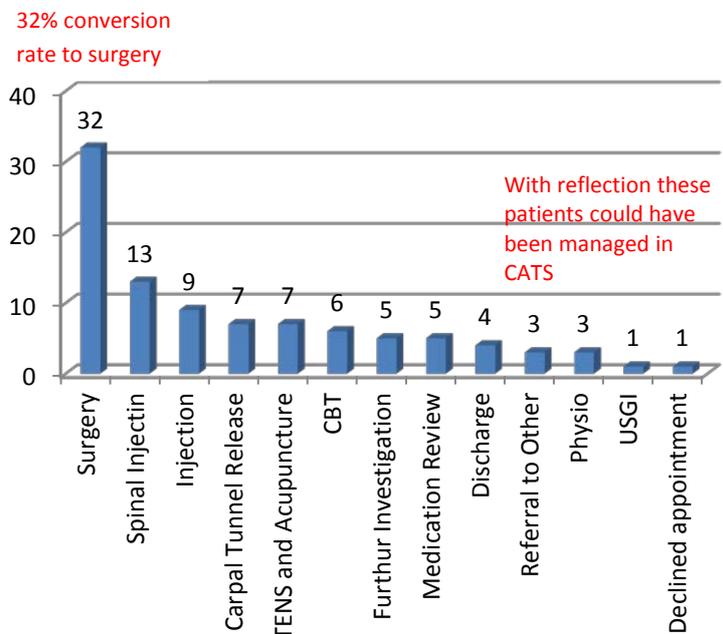
Of the **521** patients;

- **109** patients (21%) were referred onwards. 105 were seen by Orthopaedic Consultants within Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
- **412 (79%) cases were managed within CATS.**

7 patients were directly listed for Carpal Tunnel Decompression (6% of the total number of referrals to secondary care at DBH).

8 patients directly listed for spinal injection (7% of referrals to secondary care)

Outcome of Referrals to Secondary Care from CATS
November 2015



Conclusion

This information is shared with the Orthopaedic consultants and within the CATS team. Discussion is undertaken on how best to maintain and improve appropriate referral rates;

- Knee, spinal and shoulder pathways have been developed
- Spinal MDT has been developed where CATS patients are discussed and listed appropriately
- CATS CPD and teaching sessions are tailored around results
- Discussion to be undertaken regarding referral to secondary care for consideration of fluoroscopic guided hip injection
- CATS staff to undertake Non-medical prescribing training
- Orthopaedic Practitioner development with expansion into Shoulder and Rheumatology clinical roles