

Introduction of a Joint Anaesthetic and Geriatric (JAG) Clinic



Airedale

NHS Foundation Trust

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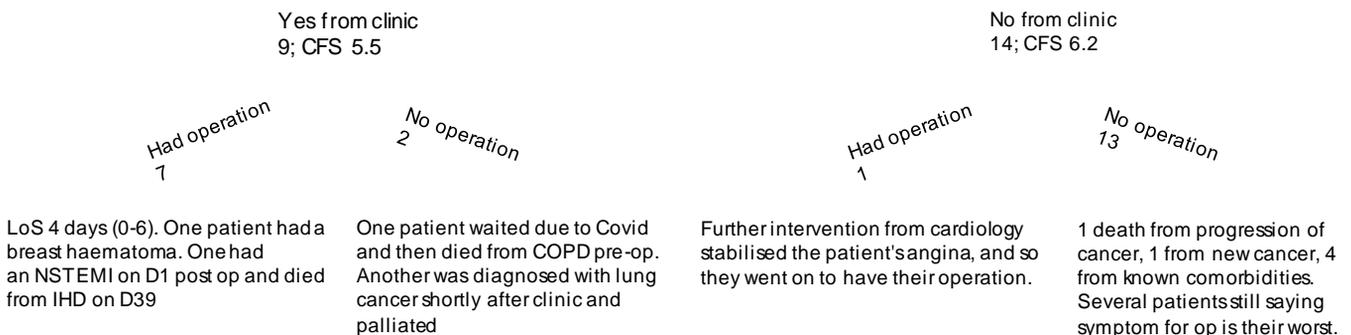
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We report the outcomes from a new pre-operative clinic started in August 2019. Patients for JAG are identified from direct referrals from surgeons or from the pre-operative assessment process. They are selected for review due to co-morbidity and/or frailty, and seen in an hour-long appointment by geriatric and anaesthetic consultants.

Patients notes were retrospectively audited to gather age, frailty score, decisions around operating and outcomes. We specifically wanted to look at whether an age or frailty score cut off could be applied (in any way) to ensure maximal use of clinic time.

23 patients were seen in clinic between August 2019 and March 2020. 11 were male & 12 female. The mean age was 84 years (range 74-95) and mean Clinical Frailty Score 5.9 (range 4-9).



Our results show a high risk of mortality within 12 months in both groups, reflecting the co-morbid nature of this patient group.

The benefits of this clinic were clear – shared decision making and setting realistic goals of treatment. An hour gives chance for serious, prolonged discussion about the risks and benefits of all options between the medical team, patients and their relatives. They also provide a degree of advanced planning for what should happen in the event of peri-operative deterioration and setting limits of treatment.

The heterogeneity of both groups demonstrates that it would be difficult to further limit access to clinic without excluding some patients who would benefit, and confirms the need for senior clinical input in to the decision making process pre-operatively.

The clinic resumed in October 2020 and data collection continues.