

Audit: Are We Following the New Cervical Screening Guidelines for Management of Discordant Liquid Based Cytology and Colposcopy Results?

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INTRODUCTION

With the introduction of the new National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) in 2017, gynecologists across Australia have altered their practice in accordance with the new guidelines.

AIM

This quality assurance audit reviews the compliance to these guidelines in the event that the liquid based cytology (LBC) result is discordant to the colposcopy findings.

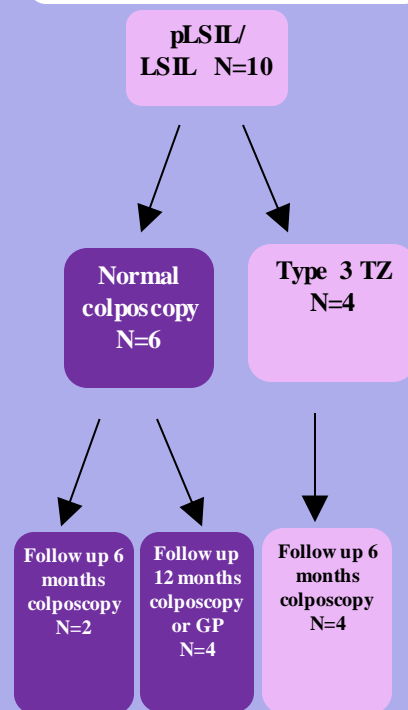
METHOD

Patients were sampled by prospectively collecting data from all patients who underwent a colposcopy at a tertiary hospital over a two month period. Data was collected from 155 patients' case notes using a data collection form. Data collection and analysis was completed using Microsoft Excel.

RESULTS

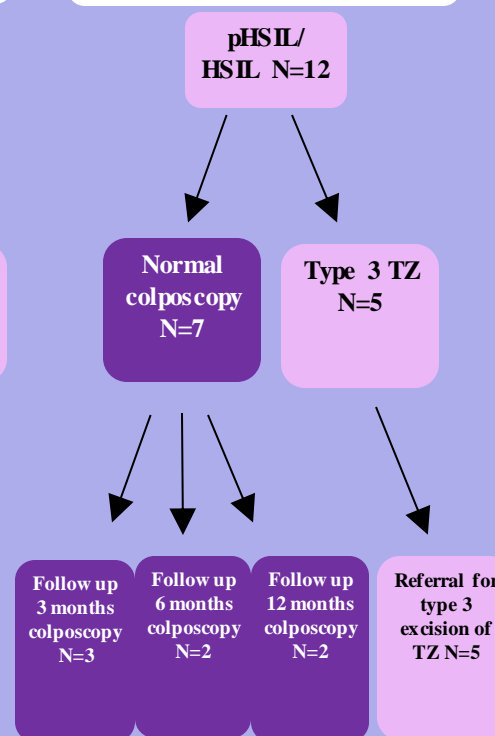
- Ten patients had low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (LSIL) or possible LSIL (pLSIL) on LBC and either a normal colposcopy or type 3 transitional zone (TZ).
- Eight of these patients were followed up in the recommended 12 month period, whereas two patients had follow up in 6 months. Interestingly, there was a higher request for follow-up in colposcopy clinic instead of with a general practitioner (8 and 2 respectively).
- For high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (HSIL) or possible HSIL (pHSIL) on LBC and normal colposcopy, these patients had varying follow up timeframes between 3 to 12 months, all in colposcopy clinic (n=7).
- For patients with HSIL on LBC and type 3 transitional zone, all five patients were counselled for an excision procedure.
- Only one patient in the audit underwent cytopathology review.

Fig 1: Clinicians Management of pLSIL/ LSIL on referral LBC



*N = number of patients

Fig 2: Clinicians Management of pHSIL/ HSIL on referral LBC



CONCLUSION

These results suggest some discrepancy between the NCSP and clinicians management, namely over timeframe and location of follow-up. Further education, cytopathology meetings and subsequent re-auditing is planned.

REFERENCES

Cancer Council Australia Cervical Cancer Screening Guidelines Working Party. National Cervical Screening Program: Guidelines for the management of screen-detected abnormalities, screening in specific populations and investigation of abnormal vaginal bleeding. Cancer Council Australia.



Health
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NATIONAL
CERVICAL SCREENING
PROGRAM
A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Program

