

The eConsultBASE™ service improves access to specialist care for patients by facilitating electronic communication between primary care providers (PCPs) and specialists

We conducted a cross-sectional retrospective review of eConsults submitted to obstetrics/gynaecology between **September 2011 and December 2016**

Questions pertaining to gynaecologic cancer screening were included (**329 cases**)

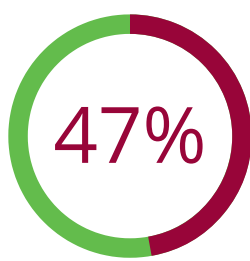


This study demonstrated that PCPs have questions that may be best answered by a **pathologist**



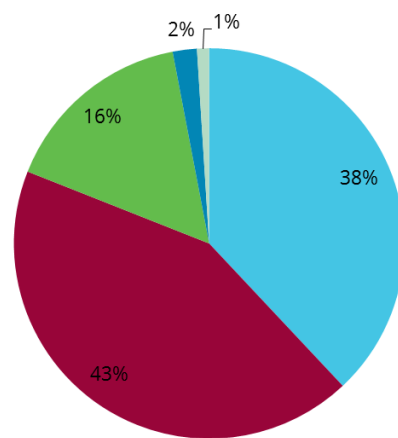
Pathologists have not yet taken an active role in the **eConsult platform**

Outcomes



In 47% of cases, PCP received advice for a new or additional course of action

Impact of eConsult on Referrals*

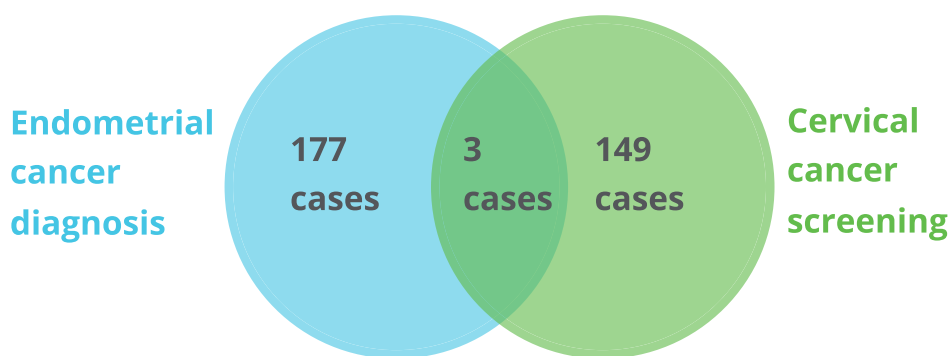


- Referral was originally contemplated but ultimately avoided
- Referral was not originally contemplated and still not needed
- Referral was originally contemplated and still needed
- No benefit
- Other

*from PCP survey responses completed after each case

Clinical Content

n = 329 cases



Most Frequent Question Types



11%

Interpretation of pathology reports



5%

Terminology clarification



6%

Explanation of clinical implications of pathology findings

Most Frequent Question Topics



36%

Indications for a screening test



17%

Subsequent screening test interval based on initial results



11%

Whether to repeat initial test



10%

Indication for other diagnostic tests



99%

of PCPs reported the service as high or very high value for them and their patient



PCPs received a response from the specialist in an average of

2.9 days



95%

of PCPs recognized the educational potential of specialist responses to guide their patient care

Impact

- ✓ This study uncovered areas of uncertainty among PCPs regarding gynaecologic cancer screening
- ✓ This study demonstrated that PCPs have clinical questions that may be best answered by a pathologist
- ✓ Our results reinforced the benefits conferred by eConsults to patient care and the healthcare system

