

CAF/15/03 - The role of pelvic examination in primary care in diagnosing gynaecological cancer

Survival from gynaecological cancer is poorer in the UK than many other countries. GPs have guidelines to help them diagnose gynaecological cancer more quickly but they don't always follow them and in particular it isn't known whether an internal vaginal examination by the GP before referral to the hospital makes a difference to patient outcomes such as survival. This project will:

- Review existing literature
- Determine if internal vaginal examination improves the outcome for women diagnosed with gynaecological cancer
- Interview GPs, practice nurses, hospital consultants and women to understand the benefits they think come from undertaking an internal vaginal examination and explore what helps or hinders internal examinations taking place.

Internal vaginal examination is one of the most invasive examinations a patient has to undergo. At the moment we don't know if it makes a positive difference to women diagnosed with gynaecological cancer. This project will answer that question.