The utility of Computerized Axial Tomography (CT) investigation in two week waits colorectal referral pathway: should it be done more often during the pandemic?

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**Aim:** Colorectal two week wait pathway investigations have been majorly affected due to Covid 19 especially with regards to endoscopy as well as virtual colonoscopy procedures in comparison to CT scan. We aimed to analyze the CT scan findings of colorectal rapid access patients.

**Method:** A total of 1900 patients was referred via the straight to test pathway in the year 2020. A retrospective analysis of CT scan investigation performed in these patients was analyzed.

**Results:** A total of 90 (4.74%) patients had a CT Scan as part of the work. 20 patients (22%) of the CT scan revealed malignancy. 10 patients (50%) had metastatic disease on the scan. Among them, 6 (60%) were due to colorectal primary and another 2 (20%) was due to thoracic cancers. The remaining were diagnosed with widespread metastatic disease of unknown origin. Among the remaining 10 patients, Curative surgery was offered to 5 patients with colorectal primary and one patient with hepatocellular carcinoma. The remaining patients were diagnosed with High grade B cell lymphoma, Neuroendocrine tumor, pancreatic mass and primary renal cell carcinoma. One patient had high grade small bowel obstruction due to a band adhesion resulting in emergency surgery and 5% of the patient needed a vascular referral for Abdominal aneurysm.
Conclusion: CT scan in two week colorectal referral patients play a significant role in diagnosis of advanced disease. The ease of the procedure makes it more attractive during the pandemic in contrast to endoscopy and virtual-colonoscopy which has been significantly impacted by COVID 19.