

Non- Traumatic Hot Joints in the Emergency Department; How 'Hot' are we?

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The Study

47 patients retrospectively audited with a presentation of a 'Non-traumatic Hot Joint' in the Northumbria Emergency Department

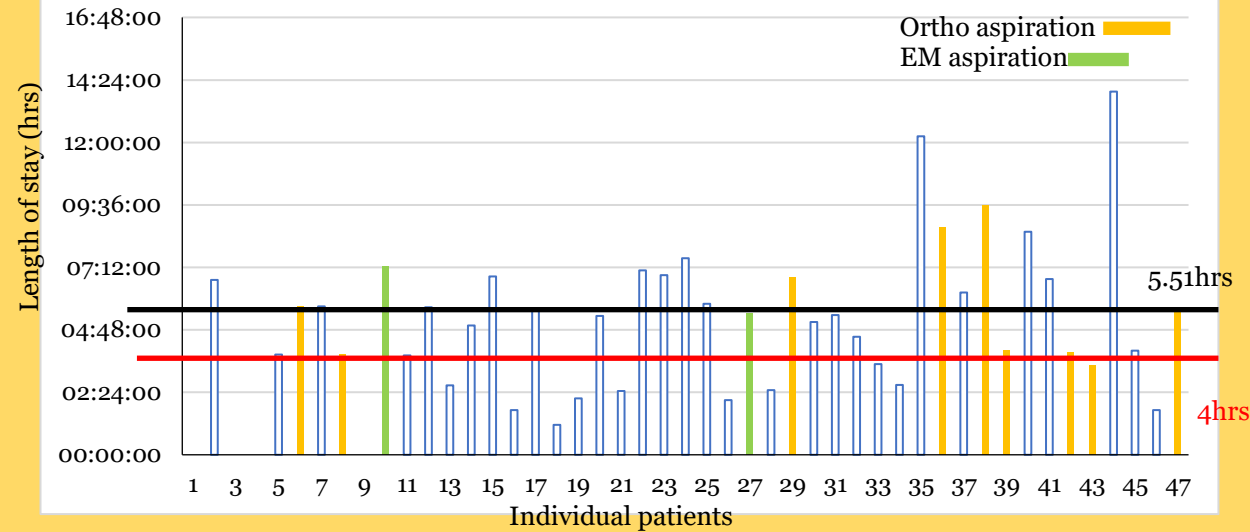
Aims

- How many patients achieved the 4hr target?
- How many joints are aspirated in ED and by whom?
- Is there anything we can do to speed up the patient journey?

Results

- Average length of stay → 4hrs 52
- Longest stay → 13hrs
- 28% Hot Joints aspirated (13/47)
- 85% aspirations by orthopaedic team compared to 15% by EM team
- Most common diagnosis → Gout
- Patients referred from Urgent Care Centres waited on average 5hrs for Orthopaedic review

Length of ED stay and Joint Aspiration



Red Line = 4hr target. 57% of patients did not achieve this

Black line = Average length of stay patients who had a joint aspiration was longer (5.51hrs). Patients requiring Orthopaedic review waited longer on average

Key Points

1. Patient with Hot Joints often breach 4hr waiting time
2. Joints are rarely aspirated by EM Team
3. Patients often ambulatory and 66% are discharged same day

Intervention: Ambulatory patients presenting with a hot joint will now be triaged to fracture clinic for primary assessment by the Orthopaedic Team