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**Title:** The influence of the UK national lung cancer campaign on fast-track referrals to secondary care

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**Body:** Introduction: The UK Department of Health(DoH) implemented a campaign to raise awareness of early symptoms of lung cancer. We conducted an audit in our hospital to see the influence of this campaign. Methods: Details of patients referred to the fast track lung cancer clinic between 1<sup>st</sup> of January to 31<sup>st</sup> of April and 1<sup>st</sup> of May to 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2012 for the pre and post campaign periods, respectively, were collected retrospectively and compared. Results: There was 16% increase in General Practitioner referrals and higher proportion of stage 1a diagnosis and less Stage IV. Despite higher referrals actual lung cancer diagnosis was less, so was abnormal chest xrays.

Pre and Post campaign, referrals, diagnosis and staging of Lung cancer

	Pre-campaign	Post-campaign
Total Referrals from GP	151	175
Total No of cancer diagnosis	54	53
Lung cancer diagnosis	53	45
Abnormal Chest xray	45	38
Stage 1a	3	8
Stage 1b	1	3
Stage IIa	4	2
Stage IIb	2	2
Stage IIIa	4	6
Stage IIIb	2	9
Stage IV	28	4
Unspecified Staging	8	2

Discussion: Our data suggest that the DoH campaign was effective in increasing awareness of lung cancer, reflected in an increase in referrals to secondary care. Although less patients turned out to have lung cancer but were diagnosed at an earlier stage with potentially positive influence on survival. Although the scope of this audit was of short duration and limited to the practice of a single hospital. Conclusion: Raising the awareness of lung cancer symptoms does appear to increase referrals to Secondary Care and earlier stage diagnosis. Further assessment of the effectiveness and health economics of such programmes is required.