
*A clinical audit of SNOMED M code-09300
“morphological diagnosis deferred”*

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Background

- *The Consultant pathologist recognized the need to refer the case for expert opinion but failed to initiate the referral*
 - *Due to uncertainty around the definitive diagnosis the preliminary report was coded as M-09300 (Morphological Diagnosis Deferred)*
 - *Code not picked up by cancer services or added to MDT*
 - *Short Staffed at the time of this incident & workload was high*
 - *Variation in the way the Consultant team manage such cases and inconsistency in codes used*
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Objective

- *To identify any other cases for referral which have used SNOMED code M-09300*
 - *Identify any patterns or other cases which have not been referred*
 - *Implement a standardized failsafe approach*
 - *Improve quality of service provision*
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Method

- *Used SQL on OmniLab system to retrieve all cases numbers with M-09300 code from 01/04/15 to 31/03/16*
 - *Following information was extracted*
 - Has the case been referred?*
 - Is there a supplementary report?*
 - Is there a final diagnosis?*
 - Has the SNOMED code been amended to reflect the final diagnosis?*
 - *Recorded on the data collection sheet & audit results analysed*
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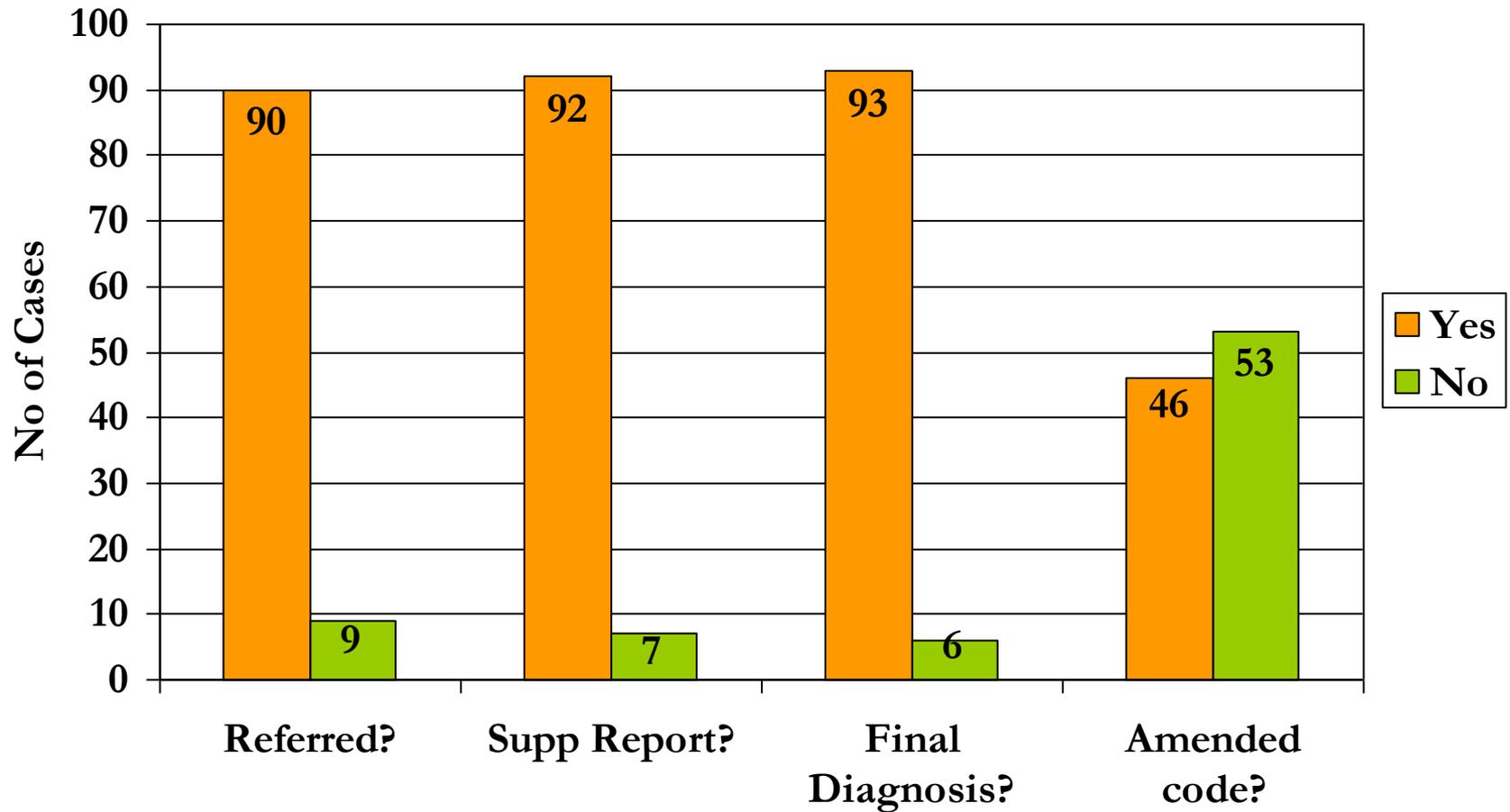
Result

- *99 cases were found by search. Didn't identify any further cases that were missed for external referral*
- *8 cases used the code that did not require referral*
 - *1 case-non Gynae cytology specimen which refers to the histology report*
 - *1 case- meant for specialist (perinatal/pediatric) reporting and was accessioned at UHNT. The blocks and slides were immediately sent without being reviewed in house.*
 - *3 cases-defer the diagnosis to IHC results with subsequent supplementary report & final diagnosis but no amended code.*
 - *Three cases used this M code with the possible reasons being*
 - *Should have been coded 'Morphological description only' (M-09350)*
 - *The diagnosis has been 'deferred' to correlate clinically with what has been described microscopically on the report.*

Result (cont'd)

- *Another case used M-09300 & was referred with a following supplementary report, final diagnosis and subsequent amended code.*
 - *Two other accession numbers for the same patient*
 - *These two cases were also referred, but M-09300 was not applied.*
 - *A total of 53 out of 99 cases did not have an amended code even though 93 cases did have a final diagnosis.*
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Cases with SNOMED code "Morphological Diagnosis deferred"



Results of Audit

	<i>Referred</i>	<i>Supplementary Report</i>	<i>Final Diagnosis</i>	<i>Amended Code</i>
<i>Yes</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>No</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>53</i>

Actions implemented

- *Flag has been introduced in OmniLab system to notify requestor & cancer services*
 - *Consultants are using the shared Extra Work Spreadsheet to alert the lab staff of any unexpected finding which triggers a letter*
 - *Agreement on a unified approach by all consultants to manage such cases*
 - *Outlook reminder is sent everyday so any cases for referral are not missed*
 - *Put the updated amended codes when supplementary reports are added.*
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Recommendations for improvement

- *Discuss & present the findings of audit in our department*
 - *Apply SNOMED codes appropriately*
 - *Re-Audit in 6 months time to identify any improvements*
 - *Interesting to see what other departments are doing*
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Special acknowledgement

- *Sharron Pooley (Laboratory operational manager)*
 - *Sharn Roe (Secretary)*
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THANK YOU
