The value of holistic assessment and rapid intervention: Lung Cancer Outpatient Occupational Therapy Service (LCOOTS)

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Background
The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust funded a one-year pilot to recruit x1 specialist occupational therapist to design and run the Lung Cancer Outpatient Occupational Therapy Service (LCOOTS).

Methods
Data collected included patient demographics, clinical frailty scores, admission avoidance, hospital bed day reduction, total number of interventions and future planning conversations.

Results

- 46% of patients known to the service lived in neighbourhoods classified as ‘most deprived’ nationally
- 32% of patients had their preferred place of death (PPD) recorded (national average 10-15%, difference P<0.0045). 77% went on to achieve their PPD (national average 30%)
- Average bed days in hospital reduced from 12.25 to 5.75 in the first six months of the pilot (difference 6.5 days, P<0.0001, CI 95%, range 1-25 days), with an overall gain of 600 bed days across the Trust

Conclusion
Patients with lung cancer have high levels of frailty. An outpatient O.T service early in the clinical pathway can help manage frailty and functional disruption, aid in future planning and both avoid and shorten hospital admissions.