Promoting Women's Health and the Development of Accessible, Prudent Diagnostic Services across Wales

Alan Treharne, Consultant Gynaecologist, HDUHB | Contact: <u>Alan.Treharne@wales.nhs.uk</u>

Context and Approach:

Unscheduled bleeding on HRT and other common gynaecological conditions often trigger anxiety and unnecessary cancer referrals due to limited access to timely ultrasound. Traditional, hospital-based pathways are inefficient, invasive, and fail to offer early reassurance or treatment.

Developing a community-based, ultrasound-led model for timely, accurate diagnosis aligned with prudent healthcare. Improve equity and relieve pressure on urgent pathways and imaging services.

Consultant-led, single-appointment clinics using advanced imaging for rapid diagnosis provide a solution fully embedded in existing pathways and scalable across the health board.

Planned Activity:

Research:

Research question: Can a community-based, consultant-led gynaecology clinic, using FlyThru imaging and targeted ultrasound, improve diagnostic accuracy, reduce invasive investigations, and enhance patient outcomes in women presenting with irregular bleeding on HRT?

- Planned comparative study: FlyThru imaging vs diagnostic hysteroscopy.
- Ongoing audit of IBHRT clinic outcomes, patient experience, and secondary care deflection.

Leadership/Education/teaching:

- Collaborating with Wales Imaging Academy and HEIW to embed training in gynaecological ultrasound.
- Supporting development of a national ultrasound and menopause workforce plan.
- Spread and scale across Wales in progress

Progress to date:

- Delivered a consultant-led community clinic for women with irregular bleeding on HRT (IBHRT) — a growing and underrecognised issue.
- Designed and validated a one-stop model combining consultation, ultrasound, and triage, avoiding unnecessary referrals and improving patient experience.
- Model now recognised nationally
- Demonstrated successful use of 3D 'Fly Thru' ultrasound technology for non-invasive assessment of the uterine cavity, reducing need for diagnostic hysteroscopy. Needs further evaluation.

Conventional 3D imaging



Fig 1. Conventional 3D Imaging makes use of parallel project to display the surface of a given structure.

Fly Thru perspective 3D imaging

Fig 2. Fly Thru uses perspective project to display the surface structure, emphasising the near field over the far field.

Reflections:

Predicted Enablers

- Alignment with the Women's Health Plan and Planned Care Recovery.
- High patient demand for timely HRT-related care.
- Strong national drive for prudent, community-based diagnostics.
- Early support from Canon and imaging innovation partners.
- Educational links with Wales Imaging Academy, HEIW, and BSGI.