

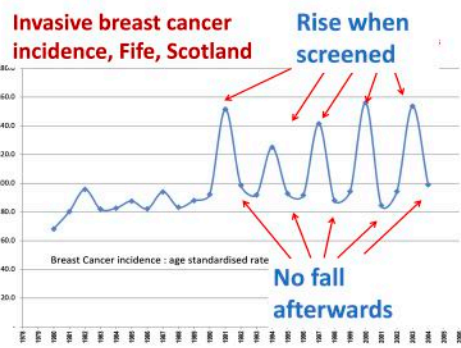


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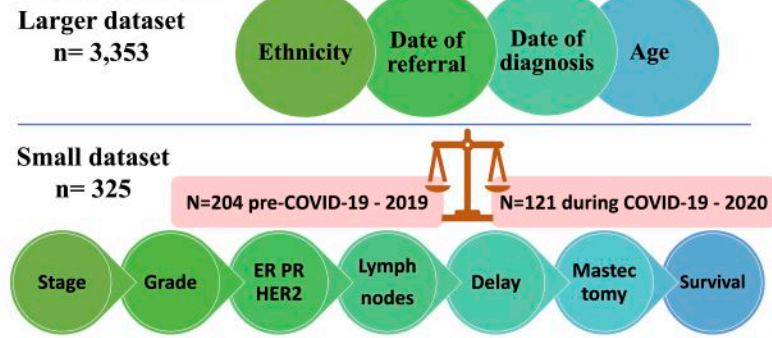
INTRODUCTION

- During COVID-19 NHS Breast Screening Programme (NHSBSP) paused.
- Overdiagnosis due to screening:
- If screening prevents late-stage cancers, NHSBSP pause should lead to diagnosis of more advanced tumours and a higher mortality: **Was this observed?**



METHODS

Patients from 2019 & 2020 (Barnet & Chase Farm & Royal Free. Small subset: 6 m of each year from BCFH - in greater depth.



Statistics with Chi-square test, and Kaplan Meier survival plots

CONCLUSION

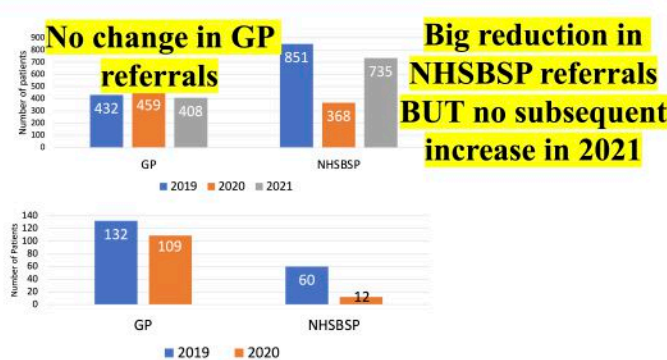
The COVID-19 pause in NHS breast screening programme:

- Did not reduce survival from breast cancer;
- Reduced the detection of patients with a good prognosis cancers;
- Did NOT increase diagnosis of patients with advanced or aggressive cancers

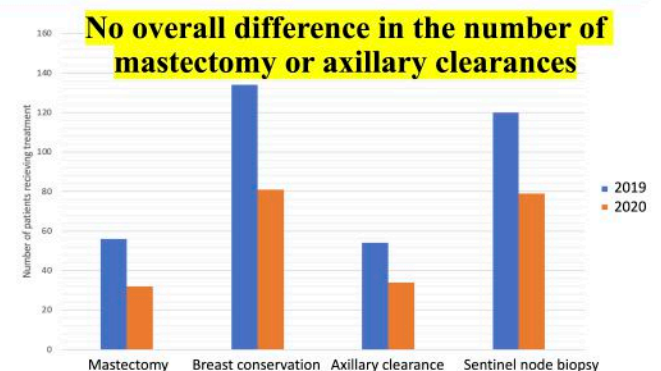
If pausing NHSBSP avoided overdiagnosis without reducing survival, should we continue to pause it?

What happened during the COVID-19 pause in NHS Breast Screening ?

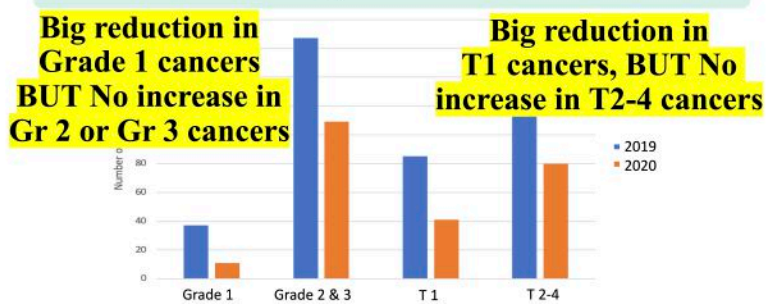
Large data set: Referrals from GP vs NHSBSP



Small subset: Type of surgery



Small subset: Tumour grade and size



Small subset: 3-year survival: pre-COVID-19 vs COVID-19



References: Vaidya JS. Should healthy populations be screened for breast cancer? A consultant surgeon's perspective *Quality in Primary Care* 2013;21:189-92. https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1402770/1/QPC_21-3_Vaidya.pdf
Pickles et al. Effects of awareness of breast cancer overdiagnosis among women with screen-detected or incidentally found breast cancer: a qualitative interview study *BMJ Open* 2022 <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/12/6/e061211>