

5.03 Outcomes of the Ambulatory Pleural Clinic in a DGH

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Background: The Respiratory Ambulatory Hub, Altnagelvin Hospital opened in 2021 and operates one session weekly for pleural procedures. **Methods:** This Retrospective study reviewed the pleural clinic activity from February 2023 - February 2024.

Results: 75 patients attended (45 Male, 30 Female). Mean age 67 years (range 18-92 years). Referrals originated from A/E department 12 (16%), Respiratory Physicians 24 (32%), GPs 15 (20%), Acute Medical Unit 10 (13%), Oncologists 8 (10%). 84% were referred with pleural effusions on Chest X-Ray or CT. Other reasons included post Empyema 3 (4%), Pneumothorax 3(4%), Shortness of breath 2 (2.6%) Post Pneumonectomy, Chest pain, Haemoptysis 1.3%. 72 (96%) patients had thoracic ultrasound 36 and 50% had at least one pleural aspiration. Negative for malignancy in 55.5%, 19.4% had Atypia, and 25% metastatic cancer. Repeat pleural procedures were required in 34 (45%) patients- ranging from 1 repeat ultrasound to one patient having 4 repeat aspirations. Other activity in the clinic included review of 3 (4%) patients who had developed complications post lung biopsy, review of patient with indwelling pleural catheter and post lung surgical review. A patient satisfaction survey confirmed 100% positive comments.

Conclusion: This study shows the pleural clinic is efficient and effective.