

Oesophagoose Meeting Minutes. February 13th 2019.

Announcements and Professional update. Claire Sedgwick and Maria Bliss.

- Welcome new members to the group-some not had surgery yet.
- Coffee morning - Dec 2018 raised £10,500. £4,000 paid out for refreshments and venue. Approximately 800 attended the event.
- Maria Bliss is still looking into someone updating the website.
- Staffing update – congratulations to Claire Taylor who is pregnant
- Claire and Maria had just attended a meeting in Durham and informed the group of suggested an Upper GI Investigations Plan ‘S. Tyneside’. This included a timetable of investigations necessary to inform an individual’s treatment plan. The proposal is to give this to the patient from the start together with additional information about preparation for each test. Ideally these will be carried out over 2 weeks. However, the plan may be affected by problems associated with the availability of scanners etc. The aim is for patients to start the investigations within 7 days of diagnosis. Government cancer rules state that by day 28 there is confirmation of diagnosis and by day 62 treatment plans start. This ambitious investigations’ plan proposal will greatly reduce waiting time.
- GPs are being urged to act quickly and explain tests to patients e.g. if someone refuses an endoscopy GP’s should refer them directly to alternative scans. They also need to stop blood thinning medication in a timely manner.

Whole group discussion/Q&A led by Jill Sturrock.

Jill gave information and held an open forum around the following topics:

- Early and late dumping syndrome - what it is, why it happens and advice on how to minimise symptoms.
- Attendees’ queries were addressed by Jill with input from other members of the group.

Next Meeting April 17th, 2019. 2pm Maggie’s