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On behalf of the Association of Breast Surgery, I wish to congratulate the East Midlands Breast Pain Pathway (EMBPP) committee on developing and delivering this important project in a timely and efficient manner.

Breast pain alone is not considered a risk symptom for breast cancer, but it does sadly cause patients much anxiety. This leads to increasing numbers of 2WW (two week wait) referrals into what are already overcrowded one stop multidisciplinary breast clinics.

Developing a breast pain pathway that is safe and acceptable to patients in different regions of the country provides an effective alternative for these women.

East Midlands has been a leader in this field and other units have been inspired to develop alternative pathways which ABS as an organisation are evaluating in a similar fashion, via the Aspire Project.

We know that patients with a personal family history of breast cancer are more likely to be worried and often overestimate their personal risk of cancer, and therefore addition of a family history assessment tool in this clinic is a new and innovative service that patients appear to find very reassuring.

I am delighted to be involved in this project and play my part as a member of the National Audit steering committee.

Leena Chagla
President, Association of Breast Surgery