

I162 DEVELOPING A FAST TRACK USS DRIVEN GCA SERVICE IN A DGH

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Luton and Dunstable Hospital (LDH) have been developing an ultrasound-driven, rheumatologist-led fast track diagnostic and management pathway for patients with possible GCA (GCA-FTP) for three years. A single rheumatologist (VQ) provides the temporal and axillary artery ultrasound (TAUS) service for the hospital and coordinates most of the fast-track pathway clinic slots. She is supported by her rheumatology, ophthalmology and maxillofacial colleagues. In year 2 of the LDH GCA-FTP 83.3% of GCA patients had imaging and/or biopsy positive GCA compared to 63.3% in year 1 and only 44.4% in

the year before the GCA-FTP was started. In year 2, when the TAUS service was formally rolled out, there was a 41.3% reduction in temporal artery biopsy rate compared to year 1. Data from year 3 will also be presented. A two-year plan to develop a similar service will be outlined.