

## BACKGROUND

Breast Cancer Care highlighted in 2006 that the number of breast cancer patients who later go on to develop recurrent or metastatic disease is unknown. Without this information we lack knowledge on the effectiveness of primary breast cancer treatments.

The recurrent and metastatic breast cancer pilot set up in 2011 found that information on 94% of the recurrences identified by 15 breast multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) in England was available through existing mandated NHS data sources such as the National Cancer Waiting Times Monitoring Data Set (NCWTMDS). However, information from these sources was not complete. A recommendation was made to breast MDTs to ensure they submit data on all patients with recurrent and metastatic breast cancer (whether or not they have active treatment) through monthly NCWTMDS submissions. We were tasked with monitoring implementation of this recommendation. To assess the accuracy of routine collection in the NCWTMDS, we took advantage of the unique feature offered by the West Midlands cancer registry, a population-based registry collecting information on recurrence.

## METHOD

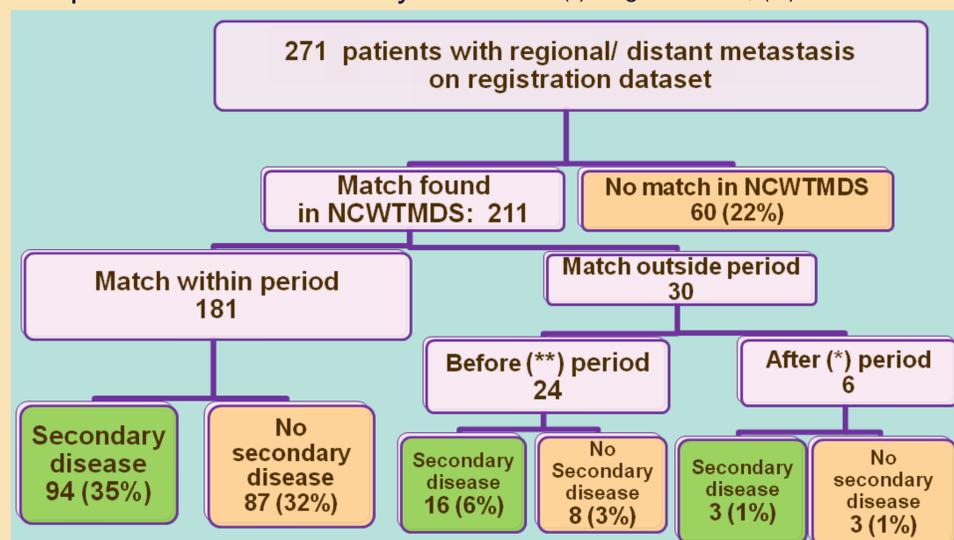
- Patients treated and/or diagnosed with breast cancer recurrences or metastasis within the period April-June 2012 were identified from the cancer registration dataset
- The cohort was matched to the NCWTMDS
- The NCWTMDS was searched for evidence of recurrent disease in each patient's care pathway (see Table 1).

CWT data item	Values	Meaning
Cancer treatment event type	3	Treatment for a local recurrence of a primary cancer
	4	Treatment for a regional recurrence of cancer
	5	Treatment for a distant recurrence of cancer (metastatic disease)
	6	Treatment for multiple recurrences of cancer (local and/or regional and/or distant)
	7	First treatment for metastatic disease following an unknown primary
	8	Second or subsequent treatment for metastatic disease following an unknown primary
Metastatic site	1	Bone
	2	Brain
	3	Liver
	4	Lung
	5	Other metastatic site
	6	Multiple metastatic sites
	7	Unknown metastatic site
Cancer or Symptomatic Breast Referral Patient Status	15	Suspected recurrent cancer
	16	Diagnosis of recurrent cancer confirmed - first treatment not yet planned
	17	Diagnosis of recurrent cancer confirmed - English NHS first treatment planned
	18	Diagnosis of recurrent cancer confirmed - no English NHS treatment planned
	19	Diagnosis of recurrent cancer confirmed - subsequent treatment not yet planned
	20	Diagnosis of recurrent cancer confirmed - subsequent English NHS treatment planned

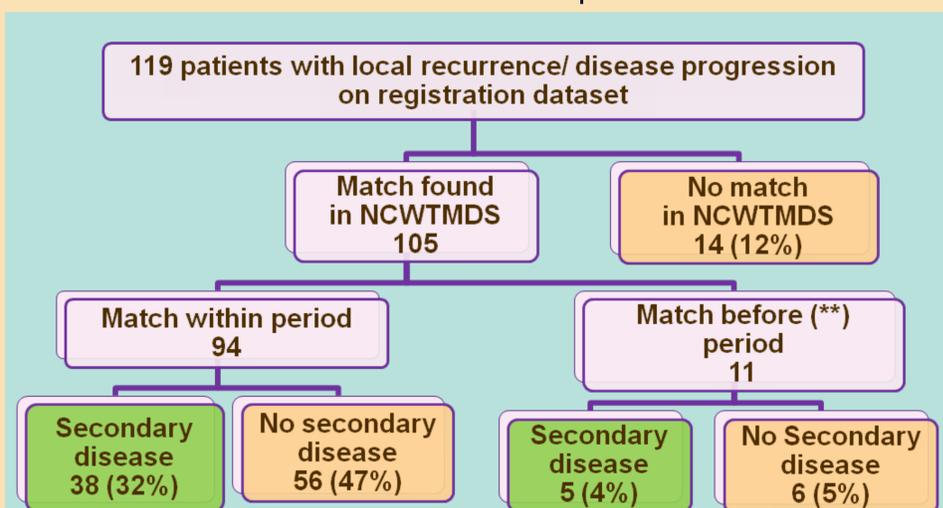
## RESULTS

### Matching West Midlands cancer registration data to the NCWTMDS

For 67% (181/271) of cases registered in Apr-Jun 2012 with **regional or distant metastases**, an event was recorded in the NCWTMDS within the period of interest (Mar-Jul 2012). For 52% (94/181) of these patients, the NCWTMDS also recorded the presence of secondary disease. (\*) Aug-Oct 2012; (\*\*) Oct 2011-Feb

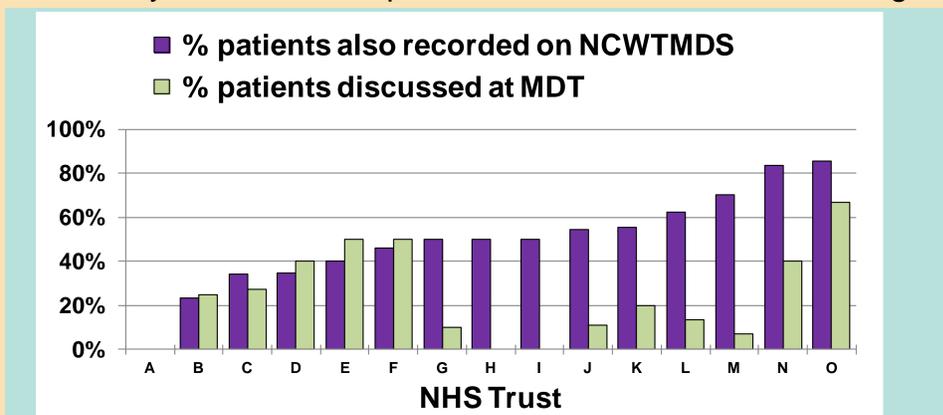


79% (94/119) of cases registered in Apr-Jun 2012 with **local recurrence or local disease progression** also had an event recorded in the NCWTMDS within the period of interest.



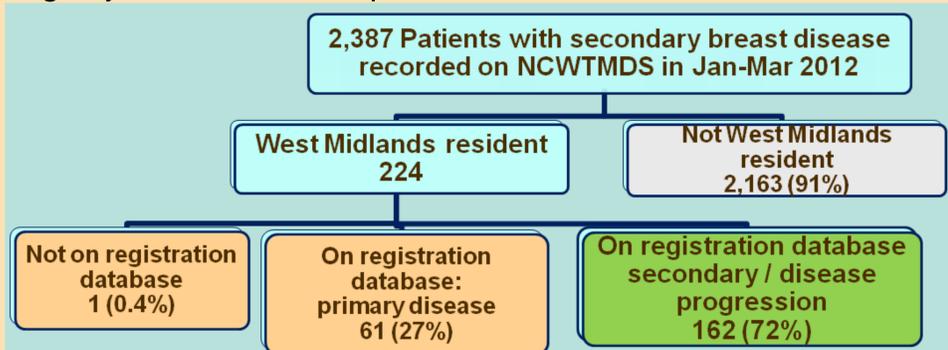
### Results by West Midlands NHS Trust

The registration 'Apr-Jun 2012' cohort was used to assess the completeness of NCWTMDS reporting by West Midlands NHS Trusts. Our findings showed a large variation between Trusts. It also appeared that Trusts differed in the proportion of secondary breast cancer patients discussed at MDT meetings.



## Reverse matching

Patients with events indicative of secondary breast disease in the NCWTMDS were matched against the registration dataset. Secondary breast cancer had also been identified by the registry in 72% of these patients.



## DISCUSSION

Two thirds of patients diagnosed and/or treated for secondary breast cancer in a West Midlands Trust were recorded in the NCWTMDS. Further work will include validation of our findings by local MDTs to understand discrepancies between NCWTMDS and registration data. Completeness of recording in the NCWTMDS varied between Trust. Quarterly reporting of data submitted by NHS Trusts across England should encourage MDTs to collect this essential information. In the longer term, the flow of NCWTMDS data into the National Cancer Registration Service database will allow accurate recording of secondary cancers across England.