

**Project Title:** The Role of Ultrasound in the Management of Inguinal Hernias

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### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of this study was to assess the incidence and usefulness of ultrasound in the detection and management of inguinal hernias referred to a single hernia surgeon. The cohort comprised of 88 inguinal hernia repairs in 77 patients from January 2011 to September 2013. Ultrasound findings from various radiologists and the clinical and surgical results from the surgeon were analysed. Of the 88 operations, 70 were found to be true inguinal hernias, 13 were lipomas, three were wall weaknesses, one was a meshoma and one was a femoral hernia. Overall, there was a good correlation between clinical examinations and ultrasound findings; accuracy values were 83.0% and 80.7% respectively. However, both were unable to accurately distinguish hernias from lipomas of the cord but this did not appear to affect clinical management. Ultrasound was also poor in distinguishing direct and indirect inguinal hernias (accuracy of 67.7%). The findings showed that whilst ultrasound was accurate, it did not influence the surgeon's management of inguinal hernias.