* The background and purpose of the study:
  + SonoVue is an ultrasound contrast agent consisting of *sulphur hexafluoride* microbubbles that improves display of the blood vessels, thus allowing more specific characterisation of liver lesions. NICE guidelines recommend the use of SonoVue to characterise focal liver lesions in an adult with cirrhosis, investigate potential liver metastases as well as characterise incidentally detected indeterminate focal liver lesions on unenhanced ultrasound at the same appointment.
  + The purpose of the audit is to review current practice and identify potential aspects of service improvement.
* The methods used:
  + Retrospective review of contrast-enhanced ultrasound scans (CEUS) performed between November 2014 –April 2015, collected from the PACS database in two screening centres. Suitability for CEUS was determined using locally developed work flow guidelines. Standards used were local guidelines based on NICE suggestions: when an incidental liver lesion is detected, a CEUS is performed as a “same-day appointment” or within 7 days if this is unavailable.
* The results obtained:
  + 43 CEUS were identified. Average age was 52 years (range 22-83).
  + There was an overall 77% compliance rate with the 7 day local guidelines. *Delay in CEUS (range 2-9 weeks)*.
  + The spectrum of diagnoses included haemangioma, liver metastasis, hepatocellular carcinoma, FNH and other benign conditions.
* The conclusions drawn from the work:
  + The department performance of CEUS to further characterize liver lesions and conform to local and NICE guidelines is to a good level although there is room for further improvement in care delivery.
  + Good staff satisfaction has been perceived regarding the current “Focal liver lesion ultrasound pathway” flowchart.
  + CEUS has proved to be a very efficient and robust way of quickly characterizing liver lesions by confirming or ruling out benignity expediting patient care.