

McConnell, Daniel, Bradshaw, Kimberley ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5322-2238> and Miller, Paul K. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5611-1354> (2025) A review of efficacy and patient experience in virtual fracture clinics in the UK. In: UK Imaging and Oncology Congress 2025 (UKIO 2025): Community & Consciousness: One Health, 2-4 June 2025, Liverpool ACC, UK.

Downloaded from: <https://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/8727/>

Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria's institutional repository 'Insight' must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria's institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available [here](#)) for educational and not-for-profit activities

provided that

- the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form
 - a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work
- the content is not changed in any way
- all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

You may not

- sell any part of an item
- refer to any part of an item without citation
- amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator's reputation
- remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found [here](#).

Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing insight@cumbria.ac.uk.

A Review of Efficacy and Patient Experience in Virtual Fracture Clinics in the UK

Daniel McConnell,^{1,2} Kimberley Bradshaw¹ and Paul K. Miller¹

¹ Institute of Health, University of Cumbria, UK

² National Health Service, Northern Care Alliance, Salford Royal Hospital, UK

Abstract

Background: The traditional face-to-face fracture clinic model, heavily dependent on diagnostic radiography, faces mounting pressures from increasing patient numbers and over-stretched resources. In the UK, Virtual Fracture Clinics (VFCs) have emerged as a contemporary solution to these challenges, yet the extent of their impact on patient care and imaging service efficiency remains under-evidenced.

Method: A comprehensive analysis of VFC implementation was conducted, examining patient pathways, imaging requirements, and service user experiences across multiple UK/Irish healthcare sites. In this narrative review, a number of UK/Irish studies on the discussion of VFCs were screened for suitability with a 10-year publishing threshold, 12 papers were deemed appropriate for review. The investigation focused particularly on the role of diagnostic radiography in supporting virtual consultations and patient outcomes.

Results: Analysis of sources revealed significant benefits including a reduction in unnecessary radiographic examinations, with significant decreases in follow-up imaging. Patient satisfaction rates reached 97% for virtual consultations, while also demonstrating a 75% reduction in non-attendance rates. Key challenges identified in these studies included communication barriers for service users and the need for clear protocols in determining cases that would - or would not - be suitable for virtual management.

Conclusions: VFCs represent a potentially transformative approach to fracture management in the UK and Ireland, with the promise of significantly reducing radiography service pressures while maintaining high patient satisfaction. The findings of this study demonstrate that careful patient selection and imaging protocol optimisation are crucial for successful implementation, which would significantly benefit both service providers and users.