Introduction
Vestibular schwannomas are benign tumours which arise from Schwann cells of the vestibulocochlear nerve. Our guidelines recommend scanning if there is clinical evidence of sudden or asymmetrical sensorineural hearing loss, unilateral tinnitus, fluctuating hearing loss, cerebellar or neurological signs or Meniere’s disease.

Materials and methods
To determine the diagnostic accuracy for this department we reviewed the records, audiograms and MRI scans of all 446 patients with suspected vestibular schwannomas in 2011. The information was analysed against the local MRI otolaryngology guidelines.

Results

Patients with Vestibular Schwannoma

Discussion
Vestibular Schwannomas account for 6% of all intracranial neoplasms found in the cerebellopontine angle.
Enhanced T1 weighted MR imaging is considered the gold standard for detecting lesions in the internal acoustic canal.
Compared to the literature we have a comparable rate of incidence of vestibular schwannomas. We would therefore encourage all departments to have similar local guidelines to ensure that patients are managed appropriately.

Conclusion
Our department had a 95% adherence rate to our local guidelines.

References
Dawes PJ, Mehta D, Arullendran P! Screening for vestibular schwannoma: Magnetic resonance imaging findings and management J Laryngol Otol. 2000 August;114(8):584-8