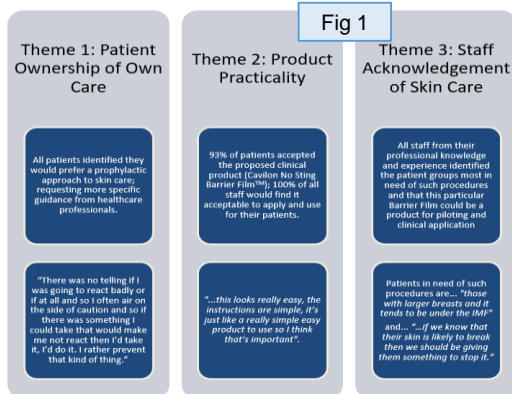


## Introduction

The accomplishments of small-scale dissertation research projects are often underestimated. Here we present two recent projects; both conducted with full Trust and University of Liverpool ethical approval, highlighting their clinical content and worth, but with the aim of informing and encouraging radiographers and other healthcare professionals in future studies and careers.

### Materials and Methods – Anna Southworth

Anna **examined the acceptability of prophylactic skin care for patients undergoing breast radiotherapy**. Current strategies manage skin reactions reactively during/after therapy. Anna's study examined patient/ staff perspectives for prophylactic procedures, knowing the value and need for understanding the patient voice in acceptability and likely efficacy. The study was part of the R-IDEAL model in use investigating all aspects of the prophylactic measures towards full clinical implementation. Semi-structured interview techniques for both patients and staff produced these key themes and responses (Fig 1).

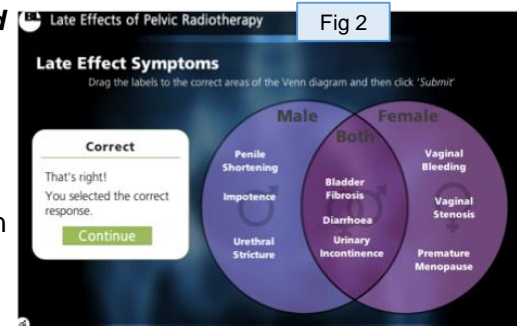


### Output and Influence

A paper is in preparation, following her departmental research into the types and severity of skin reactions. Her study is part of the R-IDEAL strategic model in use for clinical piloting and implementation of prophylactic measures for the benefit of breast radiotherapy patients.

### Materials and Methods – Lauren Oliver

Lauren **designed, developed and implemented an interactive e-Learning package on late effects of pelvic radiotherapy**. A snapshot of the package responding to MCQs is shown in Fig 2. Pre/post intervention research showed statistically significant increases in staff knowledge and awareness; qualitatively highlighting greater confidence and recognition of professional responsibilities. Evaluation of the package demonstrated its flexible and asynchronous properties and feasibility for use in the healthcare education environment.



### Output and Influence

The package is now used in clinic, enabling change in staff perceptions and quality of care. Forthcoming papers will highlight the separate analyses of her results and demonstrate the eLearning pedagogic background, design and value. Multiple Trusts in the local Cancer Alliance are already using the package, in a new 'Late Effects Clinic' for training nurses and other healthcare professionals.

## Conclusion

These two small-scale MSc dissertation projects demonstrate achievements in both clinical and academic worth, and should provide encouragement for future therapeutic radiographers and other healthcare professionals in what can be achieved.

## Affiliations