



Figure 1: Number and proportion of newly diagnosed HNCs, newly diagnosed recurrent HNCs, and total numbers presenting in an emergency context by year. Each year represents the six-month period of June – November inclusive. Histograms and the left-sided y-axis represent absolute numbers of cases, while the line graphs and right-sided y-axis represent the percentage of cases presenting as emergencies relative to the overall

number of cases diagnosed through any route. The increase in proportions of new HNCs, newly recurrent HNCs, and combined HNCs presenting as emergencies in 2020 was significantly greater than in any of the previous three years ($p<0.001$, $p=0.018$, and $p<0.001$ respectively).