

Characteristics and Clinical Outcomes of Women Presenting in labour with no prior antenatal care - experience at a major suburban maternity hospital

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Background:

Lack of antenatal care is associated with high risk of still-birth, post-partum haemorrhage, preterm birth, low birth weight and children with long-term developmental delays.

Literature on outcomes of women presenting for first time in labour with no prior antenatal care is limited.

Aims:

Identify volume of unbooked patients presenting in labour, analyse their demographic features and peripartum outcomes.

Design:

Retrospective cohort audit using data gathered from birth register & electronic medical records

Time frame: 01/Mar/2022 and 30/Mar/2023

Location: Logan Hospital, Queensland

References:

- 1) Haddrell R, Jones GL, Mitchell CA, Anumba DO. Understanding delayed access to antenatal care: a qualitative interview study. BMC Pregnancy Childbirth. 2014 Jun 16;14:207.
- 2) Humphrey MD, Keating SM. Lack of antenatal care in far north Queensland. Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol. 2004 Feb;44(1):10-3.
- 3) Grace L, Greer RM, Kumar S. Perinatal consequences of a category 1 caesarean section at term. BMJ Open. 2015 Jul 29;5(7):e007248.
- 4) Kan A. Classical Caesarean Section. Surg J (N Y). 2020 Feb 6;6(Suppl 2):S98-S103.
- 5) AIHW

Results:

- N = 39 (0.91% of all deliveries)
- Age Mean = 27.47 yrs +/- 6.3
- Nulliparous: 7/38 (18.4%), Multiparous: 31/38 (81.6%)
- Indigenous Background – 36% (4.2% population of region)
- Active Smokers: 58%
- Active Substance Abuse: 58% (9/22 – methamphetamines, 6/22 – cannabis)
- Active ETOH drinkers: 21%
- Homelessness: 7.9% (compared to 0.5% in Australia)
- Domestic Family violence: 21%
- Mental Health History: 28.9%
- Breech presentation 7.9%
- Child Protection Involvement in 57.9% and neonate removed in 26% of cases

MOD	Subcategories	n=	% of total (n=38)
Vaginal (n = 31, 81.6%)	SVB, live singleton, cephalic	21	55.3%
	SVB, BBA + above	4	10.5%
	SVB, undx twins	1	2.6%
	SVB, breech	1	2.6%
	SVB, stillbirth	1	***2.6%***
	Vacuum AVB	2	5.3%
	Forceps AVB	1	2.6%

*** Australian Stillbirth Rate – 0.67 – 0.77% (AIHW Dec 2023) ***

MOD	Type	n=	% of total (n = 38)	Indications
Caesarean (n = 7, 18.4%)	Cat 2 LSCS	4	10.5%	3 pts – 2x prev LSCS 1 pt – breech
	Cat 2 Inverted-T CS	1	2.6%	Breech, head entrapped
	Cat 1 LSCS	2	5.3%	Fetal bradycardia - both

Neonatal Characteristics	Total (N = 39)
Gestational Age	
- Mean ± SD (yrs)	36w1d ± 4w1d
Gestational Age Range	
- Extreme preterm (<28)	5.1 % (2/39)
- Very preterm (28+0 – 31+6)	15.4% (6/39)
- Late preterm (32+0 – 36+6)	15.4% (6/39)
- Term (37+0 – beyond)	64.1% (25/39)
Viability	
- Livebirth	97.4% (38/39)
- Stillbirth	2.6% (1/39)
Birthweight	
- Mean ± SD (g)	2771 ± 801
SCN admission of live births (%)	
YES	52.6% (20/38)
NO	47.4% (18/38)

Discussion:

- Results of this audit indicate this cohort of women are significantly disadvantaged and suffer from poor perinatal outcomes.
- Community based services like social work, Indigenous health, mental health, drug and alcohol and domestic violence services should encourage any pregnant clients to seek antenatal care.
- Multidisciplinary care of these women is crucial on presentation in labour to improve short and long-term outcomes.