

Reducing Birth trauma from Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injury and Achieving incidences lower than national average – Multidisciplinary model of care implemented in a major Queensland suburban hospital

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Background:

Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injuries are associated with significant birth trauma due to prolonged recovery/pain/infection risk/long-term sphincter and sexual function.

Perineal Trauma Committee:

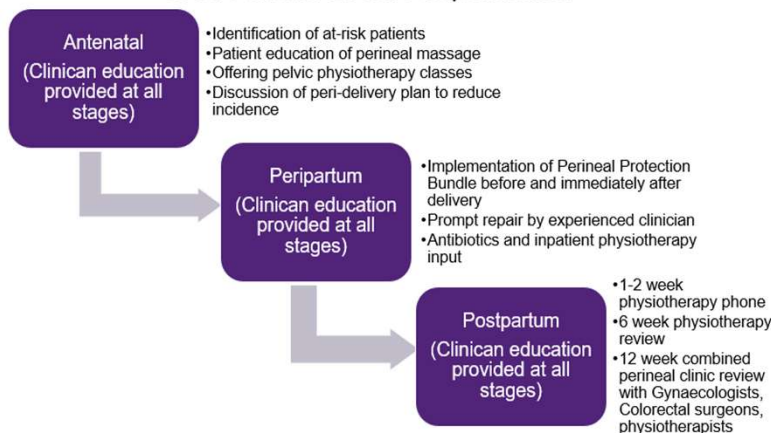
In Logan Hospital, Queensland, a dedicated multidisciplinary committee has been functioning since 2019 involving Obstetricians, Colorectal Surgeons, Midwives, Clinical Educators and Physiotherapists. This committee audits all OASIs that occur every calendar year and has actively implemented the practice of the Women's Health Australasia Perineal Protection Bundle® by educating birth care providers.

Perineal Protection Bundle Care Elements:

- Warm compresses
- Encouraging a slow controlled birth
- Technique when performing an episiotomy
- Assessing for perineal tears
- Grading severity of perineal tears

WHA Benchmarking Maternity Care Report 2023-24 indicated OASIs incidence in Logan Hospital was 2.3% vs 3.2% compared to peer hospitals.

OASIS Model Of Care Implemented



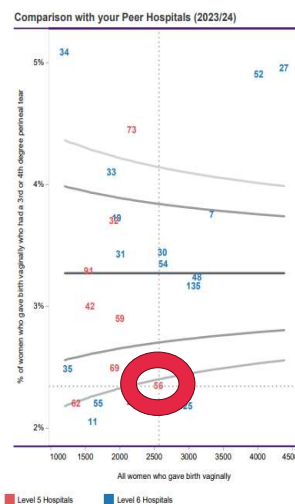
Results of Committee Audit of Jan to Dec 2023:

Type	Number	% within OASIs group	% within Total Vag Births
3A	24	38.1%	0.95%
3B	25	39.7%	0.99%
3C	10	15.9%	0.4%
4 th Degree	4	6.3%	0.16%
Rectal Button Hole	0	0	0
Total	63	100%	2.5%

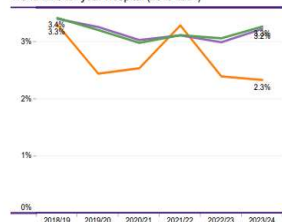
Discussion:

- Results of both the internal committee audit and independent audit by WHA are consistent in demonstrating lesser than average incidence of OASIs in Logan Hospital.
- These results demonstrate the importance of clinical governance in achieving tangible improvements in clinical outcomes, which in-turn will contribute towards reducing birth trauma.

3rd and 4th degree tears - all women



Trend Line for your Hospital (2018-2024)



Numerator -
Total number of women who gave birth vaginally who had a 3rd or 4th degree perineal tear

Denominator -
Total number of women who gave birth vaginally

Purpose & Rationale -
Vaginal birth is the most common cause of anal sphincter injuries in women. Obstetric anal sphincter injuries are considered a major complication of vaginal birth and impact significantly on women's quality of life. This indicator monitors and compares rates of third and fourth degree tears among women giving birth vaginally in different organisations.

2.3%

3.2%

WHA Average

3.5%

Level 6 Average

3.0%

Level 5 Average

3.0%

Level 4 Average

2.8%

Level 3 Average

