

Audit of Compliance to Local, National and International Protocol for Presentations of Reduced Fetal Movements to a Tertiary Maternity Unit in Western Australia

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Introduction

- Decreased fetal movements (DFM) have been a recognised risk factor for stillbirth since the 1970's. Despite this, optimum management of DFM is uncertain, and heterogeneity exists between guidelines.
- An audit was undertaken to assess the presentation and management of DFM presentations from 20 weeks gestation to the MFAU at a tertiary referral centre in Western Australia – Fiona Stanley Hospital.
- Local and international guidelines used as benchmarks for comparison include:
 - PSANZ – Clinical Practice Guidelines
 - RCOG Green Top Guidelines
 - King Edward Memorial Hospital Guidelines

Methods

- 729 presentations for DFM to FSH MFAU between 1/10/2021 and 31/3/2022.
- Random number generator used to establish a sample population of 48 patients with 50 presentations total.
- Outcomes obtained from patient digital medical records: parity, gestational age, risk factors identified, abdominal palpation, SFH, normal CTG documented, USS performed, Kleihauer performed, case d/w senior, presentation number, and outcome.

Results

- 33% of women were nulliparous and 67% were multiparous. The average gestational age at presentation was 36.6 weeks.
- While abdominal palpation was performed 94% of the time, SFH measurement was performed in only 34% of presentations.
- All 43 presentations with a gestational age above 28 weeks had a CTG performed with every CTG documented as normal. Of the 5 patients who did not receive a CTG, all were below 28 weeks gestation and a fetal heart rate was obtained in all.
- An USS was performed in 68% of presentations -28% having a bedside USS only and 40% having either a formal USS performed or booked to be completed (figure 2).
- 64% were discharged home with routine follow-up, 8% had close outpatient monitoring, and 4% of patients were admitted as an inpatient for monitoring (figure 3). 24% had delivery planned with either an IOL or caesarean section.
- From 39 weeks gestation, 90% were booked for delivery. From 37 weeks gestation, 58% were booked for delivery

Figure 1: Summary of results.

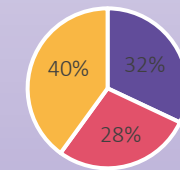
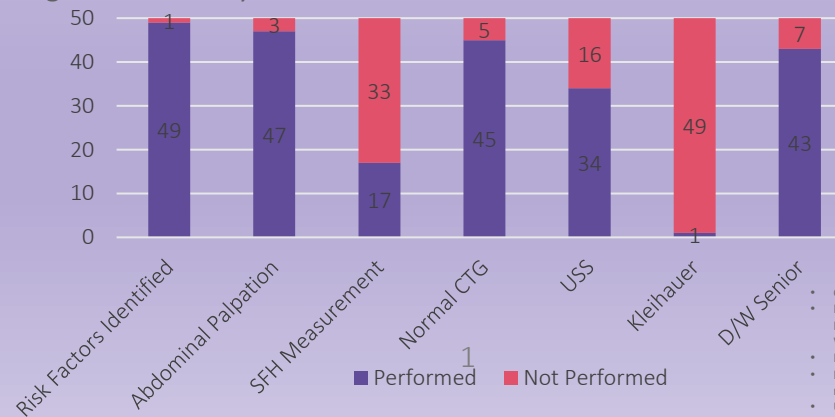
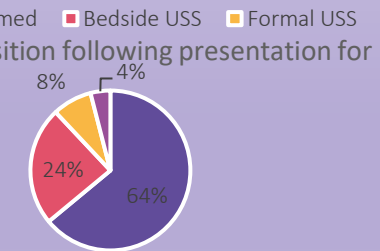


Figure 2: Ultrasound assessment for DFM

Figure 3: Disposition following presentation for DFM



References:

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