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Research Article

## Analysis of caesarean rate, indications and complications: review from medical college Ambala, Haryana, India

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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Cesarean section remains the most commonly performed obstetric surgery but indications of it have been changed. Earlier it used to be done for health of the mother but now fetal interest has played a major role. The aim of the study was to find out incidence, indication of LSCS, maternofetal outcome in our rural medical college.

**Methods:** This retrospective study was conducted at MMIMSR Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016. All women admitted for delivery in OBG department via OPD or emergency were taken in the study.

**Results:** The total no of deliveries was 2196. There were 474 (21.6%) case of caesarean sections (LSCS). Among them 156 (32.9%) patients had elective LSCS, and 318 (67.1%) had emergency LSCS. Mean age of the study was 27.2 years. Fetal distress was the commonest indication of LSCS (25.1%) followed by pregnancy with previous LSCS. Post-partum hemorrhage (PPH) and adhesion were commonly encountered complications.

**Conclusions:** LSCS due to maternal fetal indication is inevitable. Timely performed LSCS decrease the morbidity and mortality. Government also has taken initiative in making caesarean deliveries more acceptable and affordable to patients belonging to the rural areas.

**Keywords:** LSCS, Elective LSCS, Emergency LSCS, Fetal distress, PPH

### INTRODUCTION

Caesarean delivery is defined as the birth of a live or dead fetus through incisions in the abdominal wall (laparotomy) and the uterine wall (hysterotomy) cesarean delivery is one of the most commonly performed operations today.<sup>1</sup> The indications for cesarean sections have been undergoing a gradual change over the last few decades. Besides the obstetric causes, several other medical, social, ethical, economic and medico legal factors play a role in this rising trend of caesarean section. Initially it was performed mainly for maternal interest but recently the health of the fetus has played a significant role in making the decision for a caesarean birth.<sup>2</sup>

CS may be associated with short term and long term risks. Short-term maternal risks associated with CS include bleeding, injury of urogenital or gastrointestinal organs, postoperative infection and an increased risk for deep venous thrombosis. In long term there are increased risks of severe bleeding following uteroplacental complications such as placenta previa and placenta accreta in subsequent pregnancies.<sup>1,3</sup> While newborn may face problems like neonatal respiratory distress including transient tachypnea and persistent pulmonary hypertension.<sup>4</sup>

Elective caesarean is a term used when the procedure is done at a pre-arranged time during pregnancy to ensure the best quality of obstetrics, anesthesia, neonatal

resuscitation and nursing services. The procedure is termed as emergency caesarean section when it is performed due to unforeseen or acute obstetric emergencies.<sup>5</sup> It is seen that morbidity and mortality are associated more with emergency procedures than with elective procedures.<sup>6</sup>

Proportion of CS to the total births is considered as one of the important indicators of emergency obstetric care (World Health Organization, 2009).<sup>7</sup> A figure below 5% implies that a substantial proportion of women do not have access to surgical obstetric care; on the other hand a rate higher than 15% indicates over utilization of the procedure for other than life saving reasons (WHO, 1985; WHO, 1993).<sup>8</sup> Based on the WHO systematic review, increases in caesarean section rates up to 10-15% at the population level are associated with decrease in maternal, neonatal and infant mortality.<sup>9</sup>

In India the rate of caesarean section delivery has increased from 3 per cent to 10 per cent between 1992-93 and 2005-06 (IIPS, 2007) which are lower compared to some developing nations like Brazil and China.<sup>10</sup> But as India is the second most populous country in the world, a small percentage increase affects a huge number of people. Based on DLHS-3 data, the caesarean section delivery rate in India is 9.2 per cent.<sup>11</sup>

This study was done to find out incidence of caesarean section, clinical profile of women undergoing CS, indication of CS, maternal and fetal outcome in our rural medical college.

## METHODS

This retrospective study was conducted at MMIMSR Mullana, Ambala, Haryana, India from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016. All women admitted for delivery in the Obst and Gynae department via OPD or emergency were taken in the study. These cases were traced through the registers kept in labour room, postnatal wards, and OT. The labour register was used to determine the number of deliveries during the study period.

All caesarean sections performed at the hospital during the one year period were included in the study. There was no exclusion criterion.

Each patient's data was obtained from their case records kept in medical records department. Data were collected in a preconceived format with special emphasis on demographic details like age, parity, booking status; antenatal high risk factors; indication of the caesarean section; timing of caesarean section; intra-operative and postpartum complications; apgar score of the baby; neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) admission; birth weight and neonatal morbidity/mortality.

The data obtained was entered in MS excel sheet and tabulated.

## RESULTS

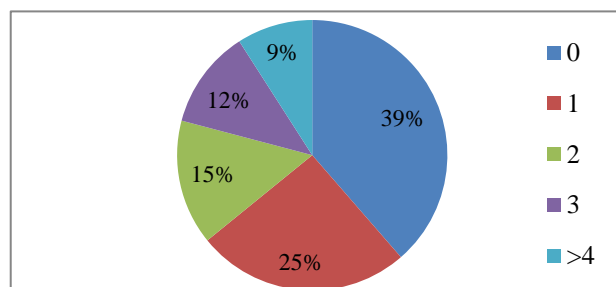
Total number of deliveries in our MMIMSR during study period was 2196; there were 474 (21.6%) cases of caesarean section. Among them 156 (32.9%) patients had elective LSCS while rest 318 (67.1%) needed surgery in emergency.

Mean age of our study participants was 27.2 year. As depicted in Table 1 maximum (36.5 %) patient were between 26- 30 year age group, while 61 (12.9%) women were young parturient (<20 year ) and only 8 (1.7%) women were elderly (>36 years). Our most (69.8%) patients were from rural background.

**Table 1: Socio demographic profile.**

Age	Number	Percentage
<20	61	12.9
20-25	159	33.5
26-30	173	36.5
31-35	73	15.4
>36	8	1.7
Residence		
Rural	331	69.8
urban	143	30.2

Figure 1 shows distribution of patients according to their previous delivery status, 183 (39 %) patients were nulliparaous, 43(9%) were grand multiparaous (>4).



**Figure 1: Distribution cases as per parity.**

Table 2 depicts details of indication for LSCS. Fetal distress was the commonest indication as 119 (25.1%) women had LSCS for the same. 105 (22.2%) patients had history of cesarean section in last pregnancies out of which 79 had 1 LSCS, 17 had 2 and 9 women had 3 LSCS. Among preexisting obstetric indications hypertensive disorders of pregnancy contributed to LSCS in 87 (18.3%) patients, 39 (8.2%) had ante partum eclampsia. Antepartum hemorrhage (APH) was the indication of surgery in 46 (9.7%) among them placenta previa was found in 31(6.5%) cases. Malpresentation was the sole indication in 26 (5.4%).

Details of intra operative or post-operative complication encountered by patients is revealed in Table 3, adhesion

was the commonest complication which was present in 69 repeat LSCS, while atonic post-partum hemorrhage was most commonly met complication contributing in 41 (8.6%) patients irrespective of previous surgical history.

**Table 2: Indication of LSCS.**

Indication	Number	Percentage
Fetal distress	119	25.1
Prev lscs	79	16.6
Prev 2 lscs	17	3.6
Prev 3 lscs	9	1.9
<b>Malpresentation</b>		
Transverse lie	7	1.5
Breech	18	3.8
Oblique lie	1	0.2
PIH	48	10.1
Eclampsia	39	8.2
BOH	16	3.4
Twin	5	1.1
IUGR	23	4.9
Failed induction	9	1.9
Oligoamnios with fetal distress	7	1.5
Non progress of labour	29	6.1
Cord prolapse	2	0.4
Placenta previa	31	6.5
Abruptio placentae	15	3.2

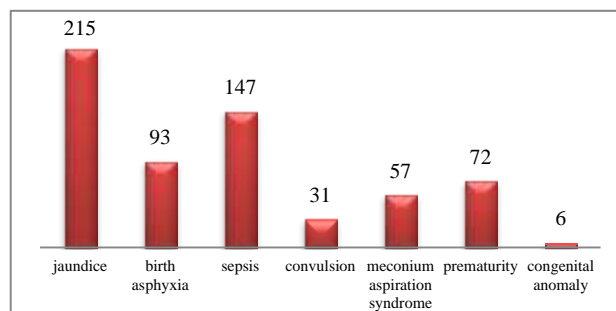
**Table 3: Maternal complications.**

Complication	Number	Percentage
<b>Intraoperative</b>		
Atonic PPH	41	8.6
Extension of uterine incision	15	3.2
Injury to bladder	1	0.02
Adhesion	69	14.6
Hematuria	73	15.4
<b>Postoperative</b>		
Abdominal distension	57	12
Fever	126	26.6
Prolonged catheterisation	91	19.2
UTI	76	16
Wound discharge	65	13.7
Resuturing of wound	12	2.5

Extension of uterine incision occurred in 15 (3.2%) cases and 1 case had urinary bladder injury for which immediate bladder repair was done. Although transient hematuria was present in 73 (15.4%) cases which resolved spontaneously in immediate post-operative period. Post operatively fever was the most common complication, prolonged catheterization due to either adhesion, prolonged labour or hematuria was needed in 91 (19.2%) patients. 65 (13.7%) patients had wound discharge post operatively most of them responded to

antibiotic change and only 12 (2.5%) cases required resuturing of gapped wound.

In present study 22 (4.6%) babies of these cases were lost among them 7 were IUD, 1 was still born and 14 had early neonatal death. Neonatal jaundice was the most common (215 babies) complication followed by sepsis then birth asphyxia (Figure 2).



**Figure 2: Neonatal complications.**

## DISCUSSION

The incidence of cesarean section during one year study is 21.6% out of them 156 (32.9%) patients had elective LSCS while rest 318 (67.1%) needed surgery in emergency. Our results are similar to earlier reports from other medical colleges of India on the contrary Daniel S et al reported higher incidence (total 28.7%) elective 46.06% and 53.9%) although the observed incidence in our study is far lower than reported from sub-Saharan countries.<sup>2,11,13,14</sup> In Asia survey the overall cesarean rate was 27.3%. China had the highest overall cesarean rates (46.2%) followed by Vietnam, Thailand and Sri Lanka; Cambodia had the lower (14.7%).<sup>15</sup>

Mean age of our study participants was 12.16 years with maximum (36.5%) patient between 26-30 year age group, which was comparable with other studies, in our study 183 (39%) patients were nulliparous, primary cesarean rate was quite high (88.8%) in our study then earlier studies.<sup>2,13</sup> Fetal distress was the commonest indication (25.1%) of LSCS in our study, followed by previous cesarean section (22.2%). Among preexisting obstetric indications hypertensive disorders of pregnancy contributed to LSCS in 87 (18.3%) patients, 39 (8.2%) had ante partum eclampsia. Antepartum hemorrhage (APH) was the indication of surgery in 46 (9.7%) among them placenta previa was found in 31 (6.5%) cases. Malpresentation was the sole indication in 26 (5.4%).<sup>17,18</sup> Our results are similar to previous study on the contrary Nazam R et al report that the condition of being previous cesarean section contributes to maximum operative deliveries in their institute in both elective and emergency LSCS.<sup>12</sup>

In agreement with earlier studies atonic post-partum hemorrhage was most commonly met complication in our study contributing in 41 (8.6%) patients irrespective of

previous surgical history likewise post operatively fever was the most common complication.<sup>2,12,13</sup> While Jain M et al reports abdominal distension as commonest observed complication.<sup>2</sup>

Perinatal mortality rate of 4.6% was found in the study which was lower than earlier studies, the profile of neonatal complications observed in present study were in harmony with previous reports, neonatal jaundice being the commonest (215 babies) complication followed by sepsis then birth asphyxia.<sup>2</sup>

Limitation of the study was that, the institute is a tertiary care centre situated in rural area; hence we are getting high risk referral cases which may be the cause of greater number of emergency LSCS. This study does not include cases operated in private sector.

## CONCLUSION

Increased rates of primary CS have led to an increased proportion of the obstetric population with a history of previous caesarean deliveries. The scheme like Janani Suraksha Yajona (JSY) may have a great impact on accepting institutional deliveries by poor women. Rising institutional delivery may be a reason of the increase of CS in India. Unnecessary caesarean delivery also put strain on family and may complicate maternal and child health. Therefore, the decision to perform a C-section delivery must be chosen carefully.

Increasing incidence of emergency caesarean section may be reduced by encouraging all antenatal women to attend ANC clinics so that those with high risk factors can identified earlier for better monitoring of labour and elective LSCS if needed.

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