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Introduction

- Prematurity is the leading cause of perinatal morbidity, mortality, and death in children under 5.
- African ethnicity is associated with a high risk of preterm birth, highlighting the need for targeted preventative measures.
- Among those with threatened preterm labour (TPTL), only 5-10% progress to preterm birth, with transvaginal cervical length (CL) being used as a diagnostic tool to predict progression.

Objectives

- To describe the birth outcomes of patients presenting with TPTL based on the CL in an Afro-Caribbean population.

Methods

- A prospective study (2018 – 2023) examined singleton fetuses presenting with TPTL between 24⁺⁰ to 36⁺⁶ weeks in Jamaica.
- CL was measured at admission, using a cut-off of 25 mm
- Birth outcomes were assessed, including spontaneous delivery in 7 and 14 days and preterm birth <37 weeks

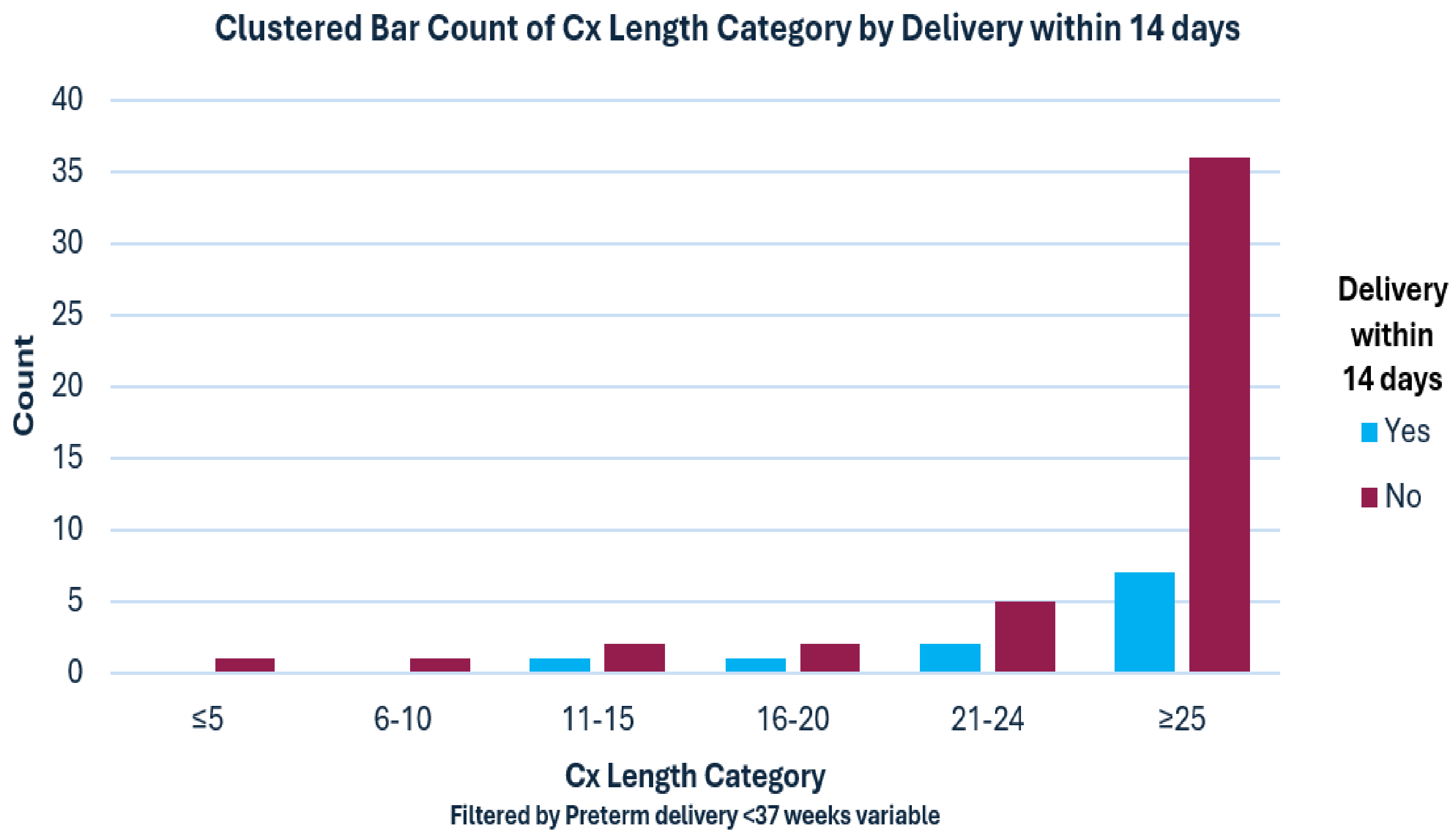
Results

- Among 63 cases recruited, 61 (96.8%) were of African descent, and 5 cases were lost to follow-up.
- Delivery within 7 days occurred in 1 (6.7%) of those with CL <25mm and 4 (9.3%) with ≥25mm.
- There were no statistically significant associations between CL cut-off 25mm and birthweight or 5-minute APGAR scores.

Table: Associations of Cervical Length and Birth Outcomes

Characteristic	CL <25mm N=16	CL ≥25mm N=47	<i>p</i>
Mean Maternal Age/yr(SD)	32.06 (6.62)	31.21(6.14)	.64
GA at presentation(SD)	32.52 (2.42)	31.53 (3.05)	.24
Fibroids (%)			.81
- Yes	2 (12.5)	7 (14.9)	
- No	14 (87.5)	40 (85.1)	
Preterm delivery ^a (%)			.85
- Yes	6 (40)	16 (37.2)	
- No	9 (60)	27 (62.8)	
Mean GA at delivery ^a (SD)	37.06 (1.38)	37.44 (2.09)	.52
Delivery within 7 days ^a (SD)			1.0
- Yes	1 (6.7)	4 (9.3)	
- No	14 (93.3)	39 (90.7)	
Delivery within 14 days ^a			.38
- Yes	4 (26.7)	7 (16.3)	
- No	11 (73.3)	36 (83.7)	
Birthweight (kg) ^a	2.9 (0.67)	3.0 (0.57)	.74
Median 5-min APGAR ^a (range)	9 (9-9)	9 (0-10)	.38

^a n = 58



Conclusion

- CL measurements revealed that 9.3% and 16.3% of cases with cervix ≥25 mm delivered within 7 and 14 days respectively.
- Presence of uterine fibroids did not impact the CL at presentation.

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