

INTRODUCTION

- The expectation that patients undergoing caesarean section (CS) accurately recall risks of neuraxial procedures stated verbally may be unrealistic.
- Aim: To assess whether accurate risk recall post-spinal or epidural is enhanced by adding a visual infographic at time of consent.

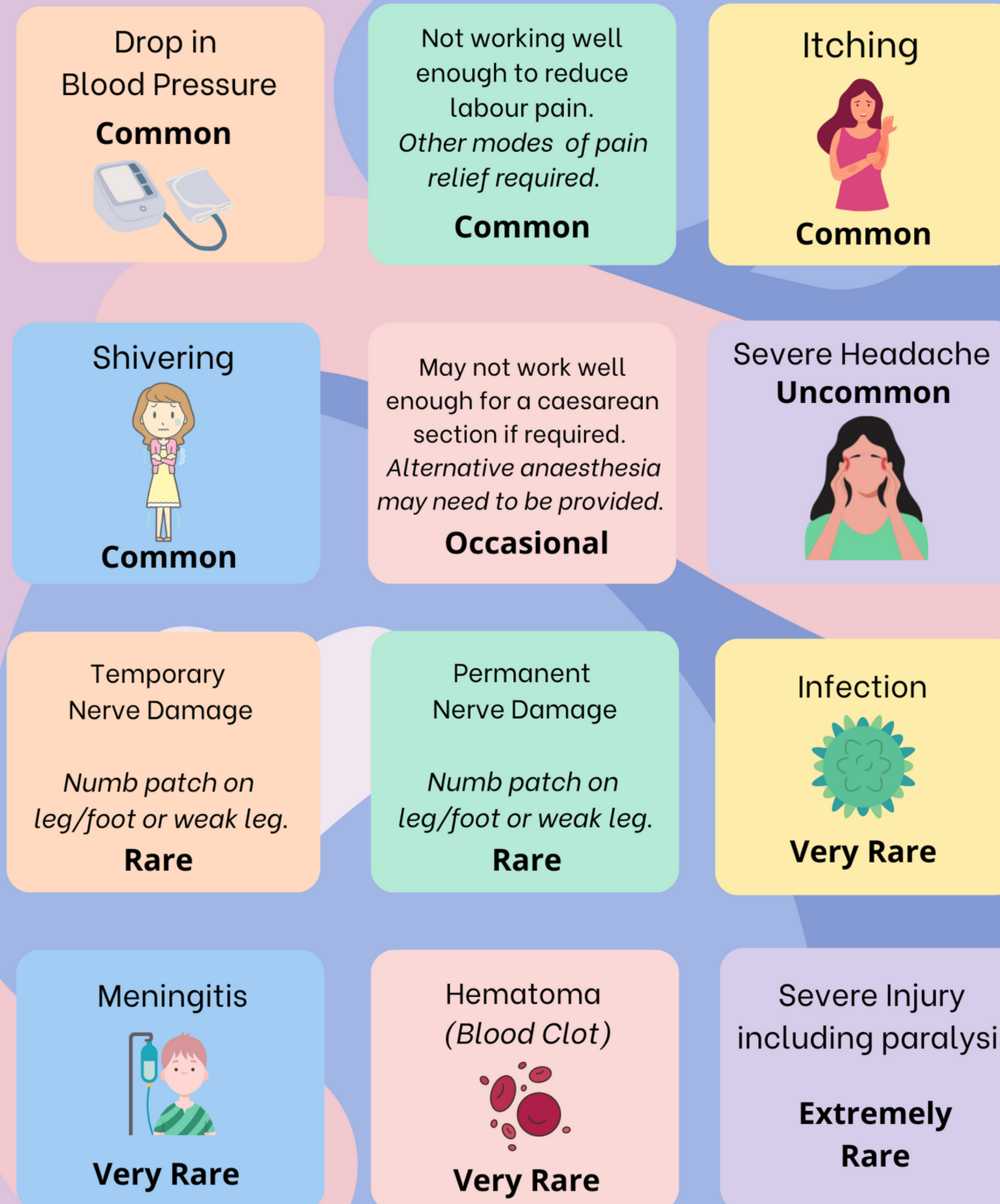
METHODS

- Approvals were granted by the Ethics Committee and Data Protection Office.
- Written consent was given by all patients.
- At least 24-hours after verbal consent for a neuraxial technique, patients were asked to freely recall risks.
- They were then asked to judge whether risks (including true and false ones) were true (T) or false (F).
- The study included two phases. Phase One (verbal consent only) and Phase Two (verbal consent and visual infographic).
- These were carried out one month apart.

RESULTS

- Phase One: 52 patients. Phase Two: 50 patients.
- No significant difference in CS urgency between the two phases. Most were done under spinal.
- Mothers exposed to the infographic exhibited a statistically ($p < 0.001$) higher recall rate.
- A statistical difference between the phases was found only for unprompted correct risks.
- Nerve damage and headache were the most commonly mentioned risks.
- All infographic risks were mentioned unprompted in Phase Two.
- In the T/F section, an overall improvement was noted in Phase 2, though this was not statistically significant.

EPIDURAL & SPINAL ANAESTHESIA COMPLICATIONS



REFERENCES

- Bamber J, Lucas N, Laat F, et al. RCOA Guidelines for the Provision of Anaesthesia Services (GPAS). Guidelines for the Provision of Anaesthesia Services for an Obstetric Population 2023 Chapter 9.

TABLE OF RESULTS

Data Analysed	Phase One	Phase Two	p-value
% Mothers who had previous knowledge of neuraxial blockade	76	70	0.714
Unprompted Correct Risks Mentioned Mean (SD)	1.30 (1.13)	2.46 (1.44)	<0.01
Unprompted Incorrect Risks Mentioned Mean (SD)	0.404 (0.602)	0.45 (0.71)	0.383
Prompted Risks, No. of Correct Answers (T/F Questionnaire) Mean (SD)	5.28 (1.07)	5.64 (1.22)	0.797
Prompted Risks, No. of Incorrect Answers (T/F Questionnaire) Mean (SD)	2.71 (1.07)	2.22 (1.05)	0.393
% Correct for the True Statement - Paralysis	59.62	70.00	0.212
% Correct for the True Statement - Pruritus	82.70	90.00	0.539
% Correct for the True Statement - Headache	86.54	94.00	0.320
% Correct for the True Statement - Meningitis	30.77	36.00	0.393
% Correct for the False Statement - Chronic Back Pain	46.15	44.00	0.590
% Correct for the False Statement - Constipation	71.15	66.00	0.106
% Correct for the False Statement - Muscle Spasm	53.85	50.00	0.087
% Correct for the False Statement - Harmful to the Baby	96.15	92.00	0.673

DISCUSSION

- Limitations: language barriers and unintended partner involvement in the T/F section, among others.
- Our study supports the recommendation for visual resources to facilitate the consent process for obstetric neuraxial techniques (1).
- The infographic significantly improved risk recall and we plan to adopt this as standard practice.