

The search for unwarranted variation in the availability of anaesthetic management for persons following the diagnosis of Intrauterine fetal death

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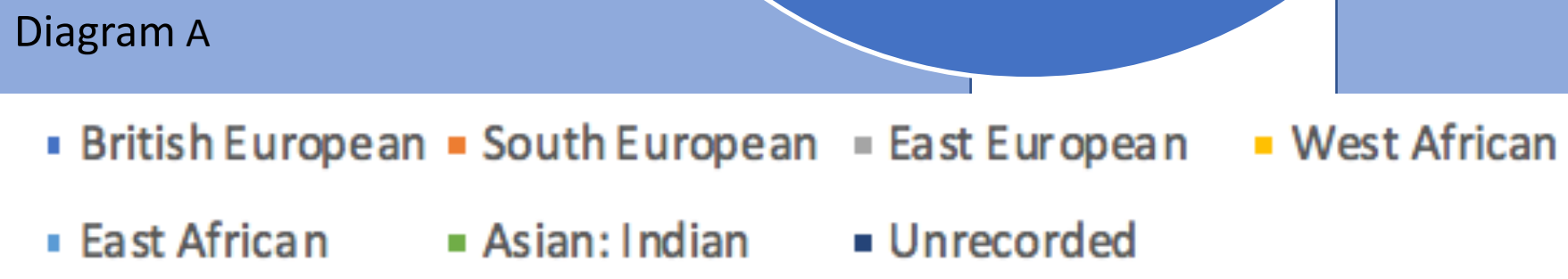
With Thanks to the Bereavement Midwives and Miss B Gibson consultant Obstetrician

INTRODUCTION

The psychological trauma associated with pregnancy loss bears lasting sequelae for both the parturient and family. Adequate pain relief can offer some comfort during this distressing time. As highlighted by MBRACCE₁ : with regards to Intrauterine fetal death (IUFD) there is a ‘multiple impact of ethnicity and deprivation’ with increased rates for these two groups. Our focus has been to evaluate our current practice and trends to see how we can support this important community through this challenging time

STUDY OBJECTIVES

- We aimed to:
- Collect information
 - Categorise according ONS
 - Evaluate
 - Searching for trends in current practice
 - Examine for casual relationships between treatment received and diversity/ ethnicity
 - Identify similarities/differences/patterns/ trends
 - To identify key demographics and characteristic of pain relief choices



METHODS

Retrospective data collection of the demographics and primary and secondary forms of pain relief of patients according to the 12 categories from ONS who had an IUFD between May 2021 and May 2022.

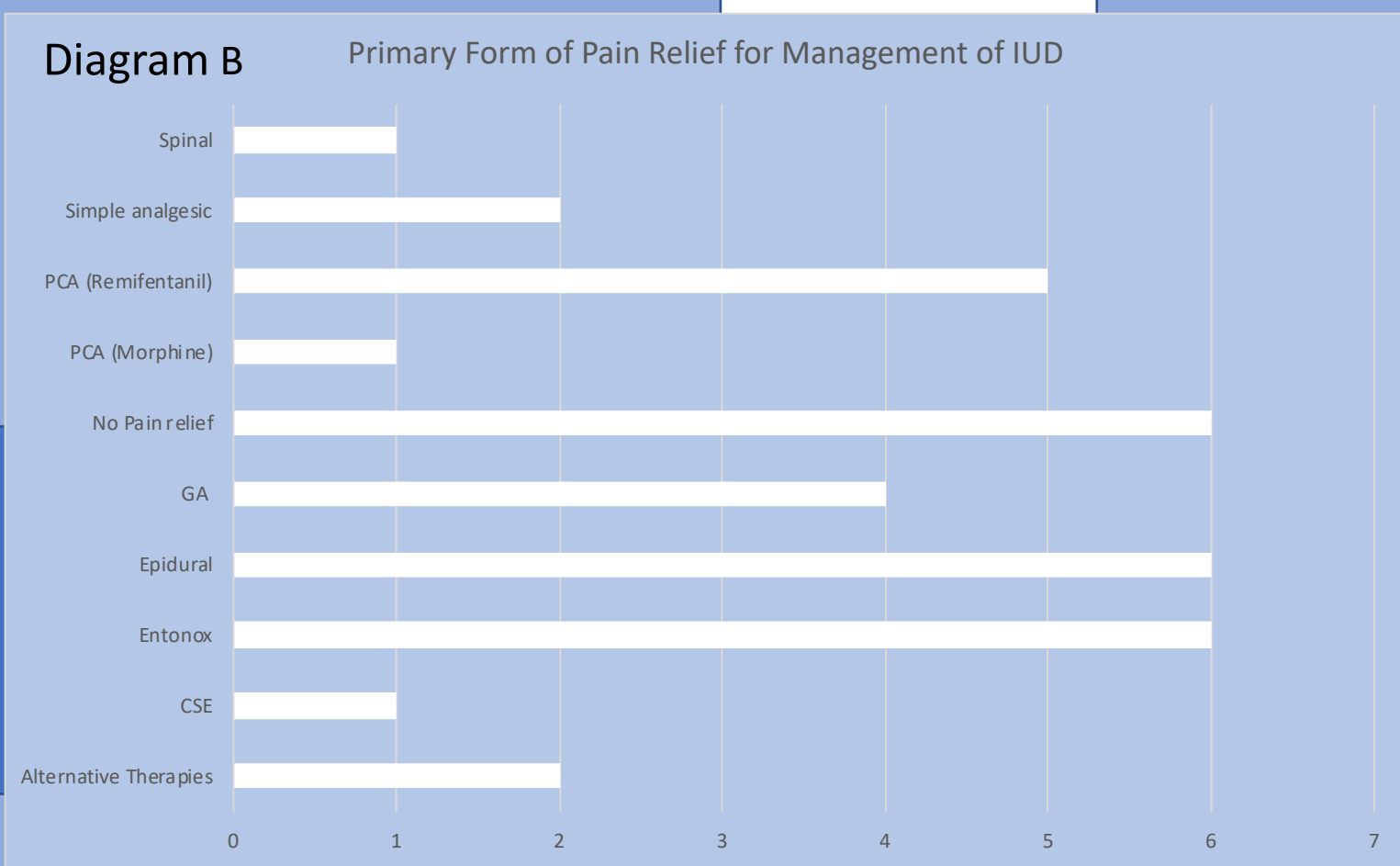
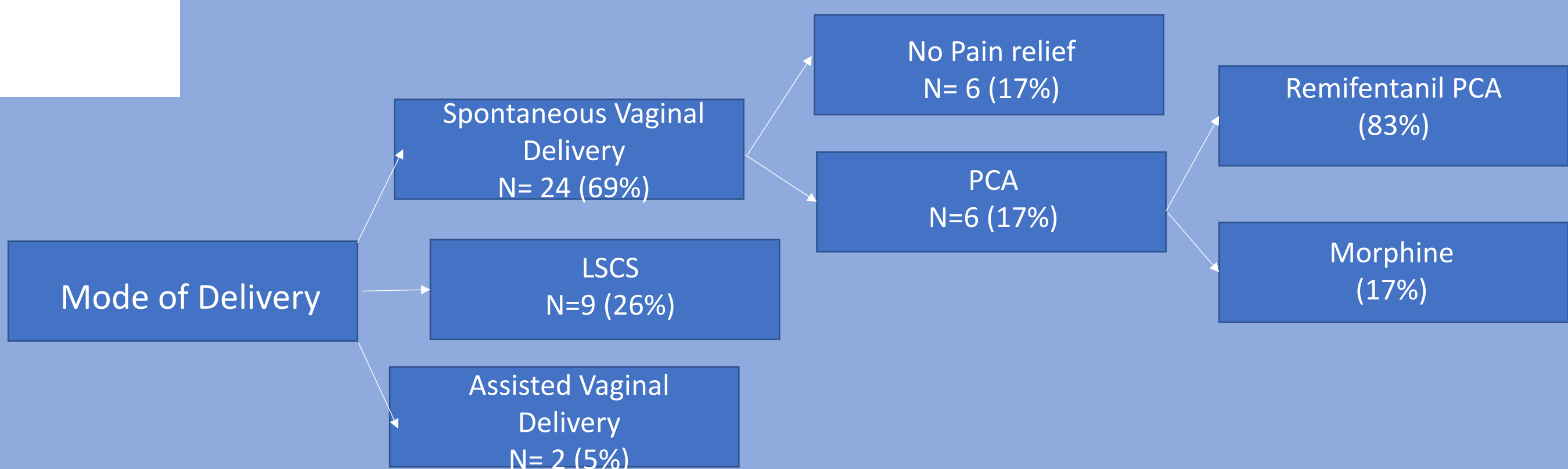
Active and open discussion with the NNUH Bereavement team

Governance meetings to communicate findings, ideas and concerns related to treatment and management.

DATA ANALYSIS

Diagram A: Pie chart: ethnicity

Diagram B: Bar charts: primary and secondary pain relief



THEMES

- Currently no specific trust guidance/information for patients and families on anaesthetic management for IUFD
- Well prescribed trust guidance of remifentanyl PCA for laboring women
- Pain relief commonly used
 - PCA: Remifentanyl
 - CNB
 - Holistic
- Growing confidence in practice of remifentanyl for IUFD with no reported complications.

TAKE AWAY

Clear information with correct terminology as per labour pains
Offer of anaesthetic follow up for debrief if required
Offer information early
Training for all stake holders
Awareness and respect for cultural and ethnic choices

References



NNUH Remifentanyl PCA for laboring women guidelines



Labour Pains: Pain Relief information for if your baby has died.



MBRACE-UK – UK Perinatal Deaths for Births from January to December 2020