

An Audit of Admissions to a High Dependency Unit in a Tertiary Maternity Hospital

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Indications for HDU Admission
n=125



Introduction

There is a shortage of granular data on the numbers of obstetric patients requiring critical care in Ireland. Accurate data on the rates of HDU admissions, in particular, are needed to guide the development of obstetric critical care services.

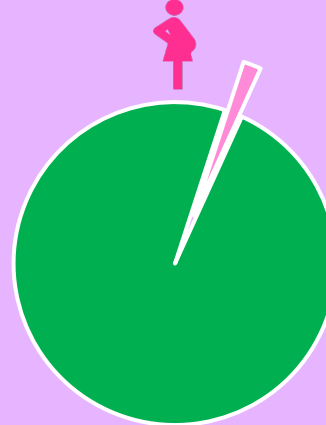
Methods

Booking forms for the HDU were retrieved from the admission folder for the 12-month period January to December 2022. Patient details were gathered from these booking forms and from the online electronic health record. These data were tabulated and analysed.

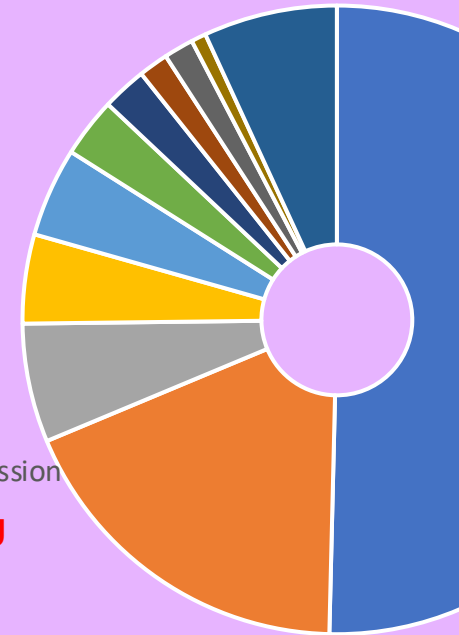
Results

A minority (<2%) of obstetric patients in our centre required HDU admission. The majority of HDU admissions involved women who had experienced significant haemorrhage.

6,815 women delivered



Haemorrhage requiring HDU admission
n = 66



- Haemorrhage = 50.4%
- Pre-eclampsia = 18.3%
- Sepsis = 6.1%
- Cardiac conditions = 4.6%
- Metabolic/Endocrine disorders = 4.6%
- Neurological disorders = 3%
- Hypertension = 2.3%
- Anaphylaxis = 1.5%
- Disseminated intravascular coag. = 1.5%
- Hypoxia/Respiratory disorders = 0.8%
- Miscellaneous = 6.9%

Mean age of the patients admitted to HDU =
34.5 ± 5.8 years

Mean blood loss in HDU admissions for haemorrhage
= 2,205 ml (Range 500ml – 11,000ml)

Four patients (3%) required repeat HDU admission