

Intensive care unit (ICU) obstetric admissions at a tertiary general hospital: 2019 - 2023

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Background:

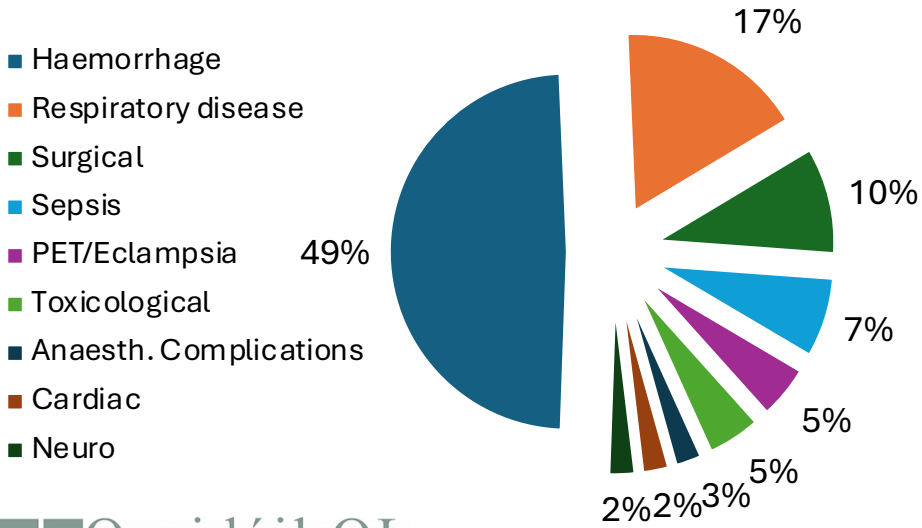
Obstetric admissions to ICU have been proposed as a quality indicator for obstetric care. Data on the incidence and causes of ICU admissions in the Irish setting are limited

Methods:

Ethical approval was obtained from the hospital ethics committee to retrospectively collate & analyse data from the ICU database. Electronic health records were individually reviewed to generate required data.



Indications for ICU admission



Main Findings:

There were **43 obstetric ICU admissions** over the five-year period analysed (2019-2023)
This represented **0.2%** of all obstetric cases [20,147 total] and 1.9% of all ICU admissions [2,263 total]

The most common organ supports provided for obstetric ICU patients included:
Respiratory (60.5%), Cardiovascular (53.5%) and Blood products (51.2%).

The **median length of stay** was **2 days** (mean 4.5 days, range: 0.5-62 days)

The median gestational age was **34/40 weeks** (Mean : 30.1 weeks, range: 6-41 weeks)

The median age was **32 years** (range 17-44 years),
25.6 % were pregnant and 74.4 % were postpartum

Conclusions:

- These data highlight that while a small proportion of all obstetric cases will require ICU care, this represents ~2% of all ICU admissions in our centre. The most common cause of ICU admission was haemorrhage.
- These data indicate that critical care remains a vital component in delivering obstetric services in a tertiary hospital and that ICU physicians need to be familiar managing obstetric patients in the ICU.