

Is two step triage and M6 module are safe in triaging Pregnancy of Unknown Location (PUL)?

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Objective:

PUL is when pregnancy test positive, but pregnancy cannot be definitely visualise on scan. Up to 20% of PUL could be an invisible ectopic pregnancy (EP). The outcome of PUL: low risk which represent 70% and include [failed PUL (FPUL), intrauterine pregnancy (IUP)] or high risk PUL which include [EP or persistent PUL (PPUL)]

One step triage (1ST) based on initial progesterone cut-off of less than 2 considered low risk of EP, 16% of women can be discharged based on 1ST

M6 module, step two triage (2ST) estimate the probability of PUL being high or low risk. It is based on measuring initial and 48 hours BhCG, initial progesterone and BhCG ratio. 2ST has helped cut unnecessary follow up, scans and blood tests.

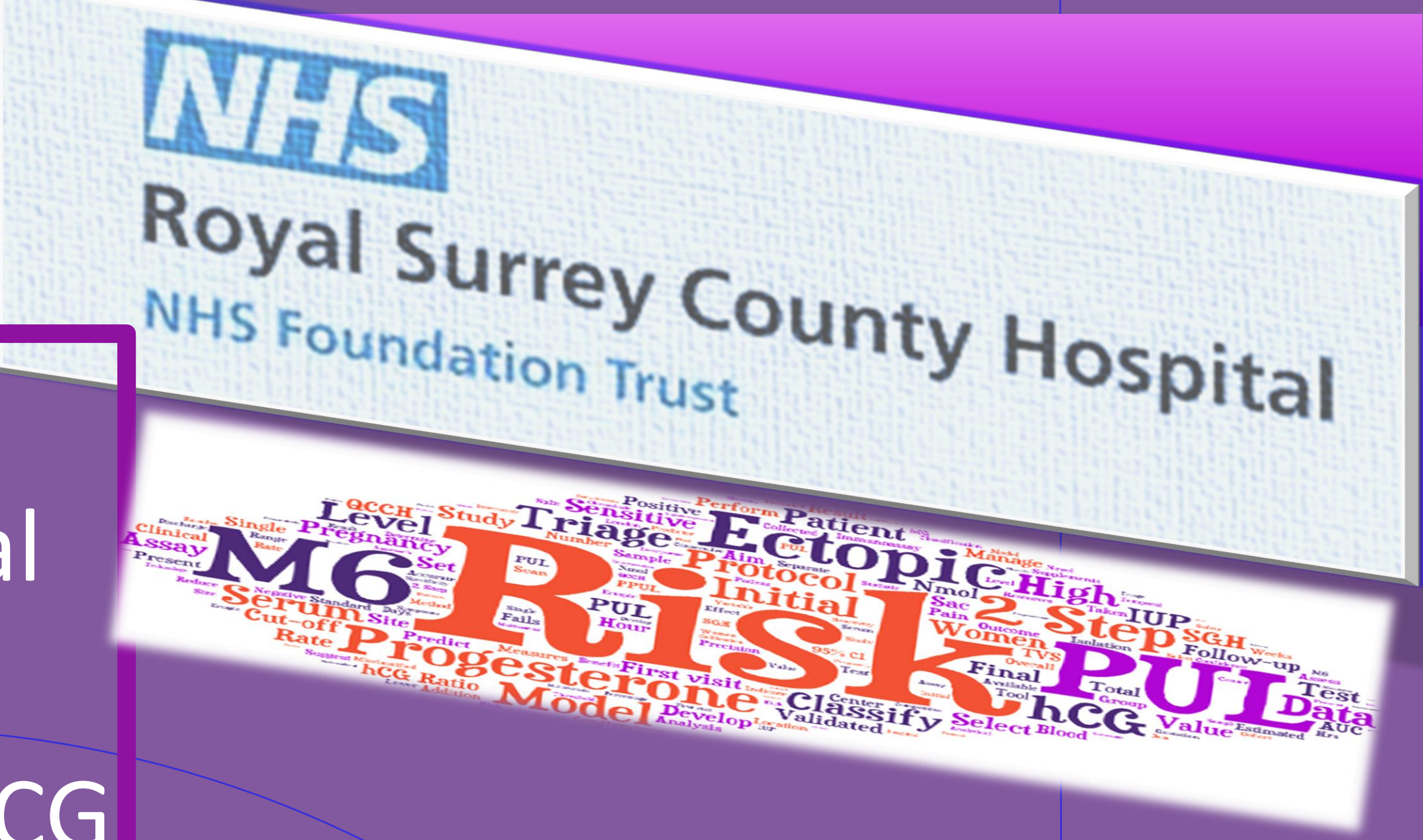
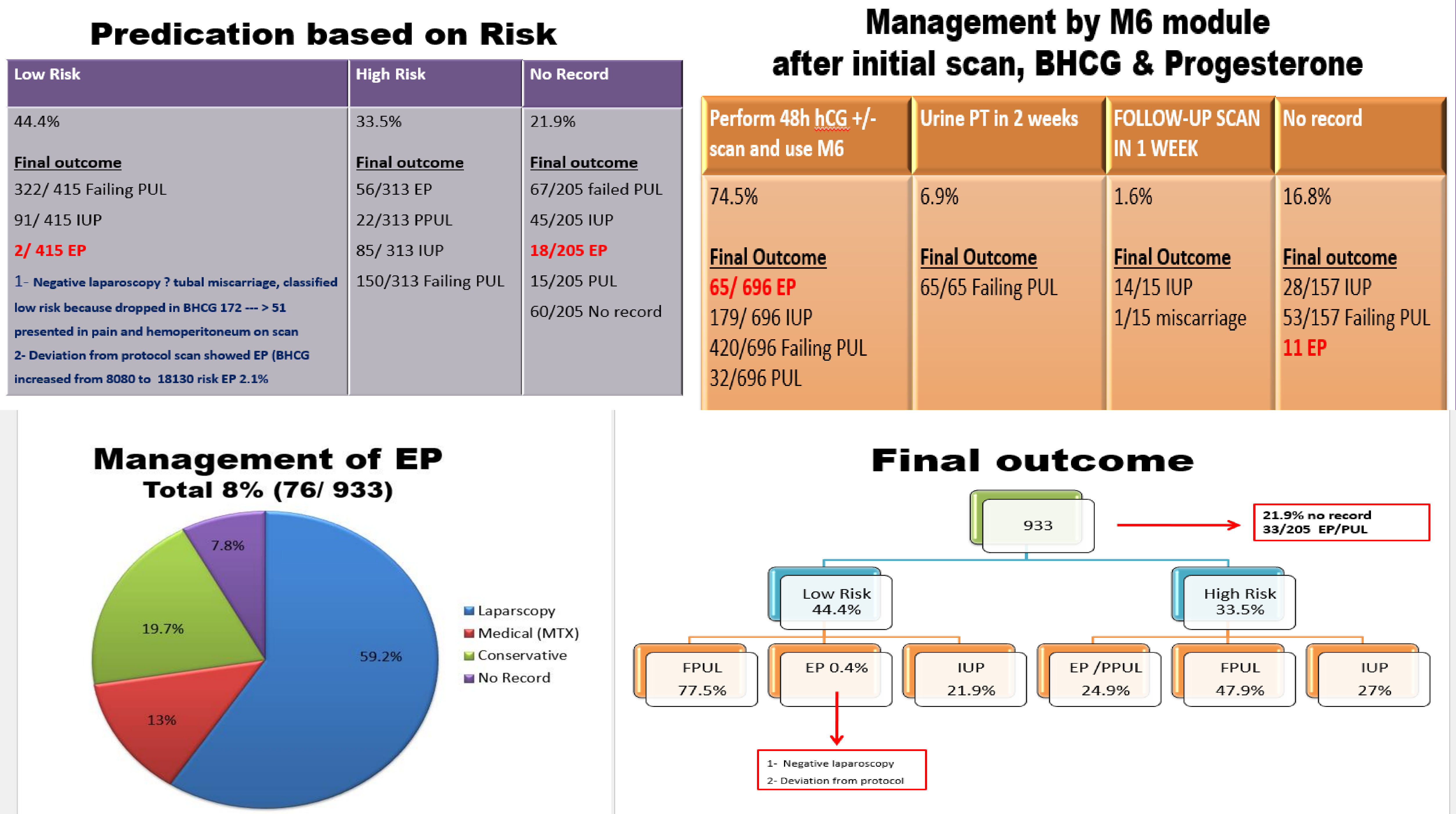
Design

Retrospective audit from 1st Jan 2016 - 31st Dec 2020, 1095 women were given provisional diagnosis of PUL. 94 women met exclusion criteria of initial progesterone < 2. 32 patients were excluded for lost follow up and 36 women withdrawn because initial BhCG was < 25. 933 women were included in the analysis.

Results:

42% women had scan for pain & bleeding. Prediction risk was not documented in 22%. 44.4% of women predicted as low risk, of which 77.5% had FPUL, 22% were confirmed IUP and two had EP 33.5% women predicted as high risk, of which 17.8% diagnosed with EP and 7% had PPUL while 48% had FPUL and 27% were proven IUP.

Total number of EP was 76/933 (8%), of which 60% were treated surgically, 13% had received methotrexate and the remaining managed conservatively. Total number of scans was 6698, giving PUL rate at 14%



Conclusions:

2ST is safe and cost effective of triaging PUL patients. There was no adverse outcome reported and all PUL patients received good care until final diagnosis and follow up were complete.