

Challenges & Learning Experience : Transforming Obstetrics Unit AL Wakra Hospital to COVID-19 Obstetric Facility

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Introduction:

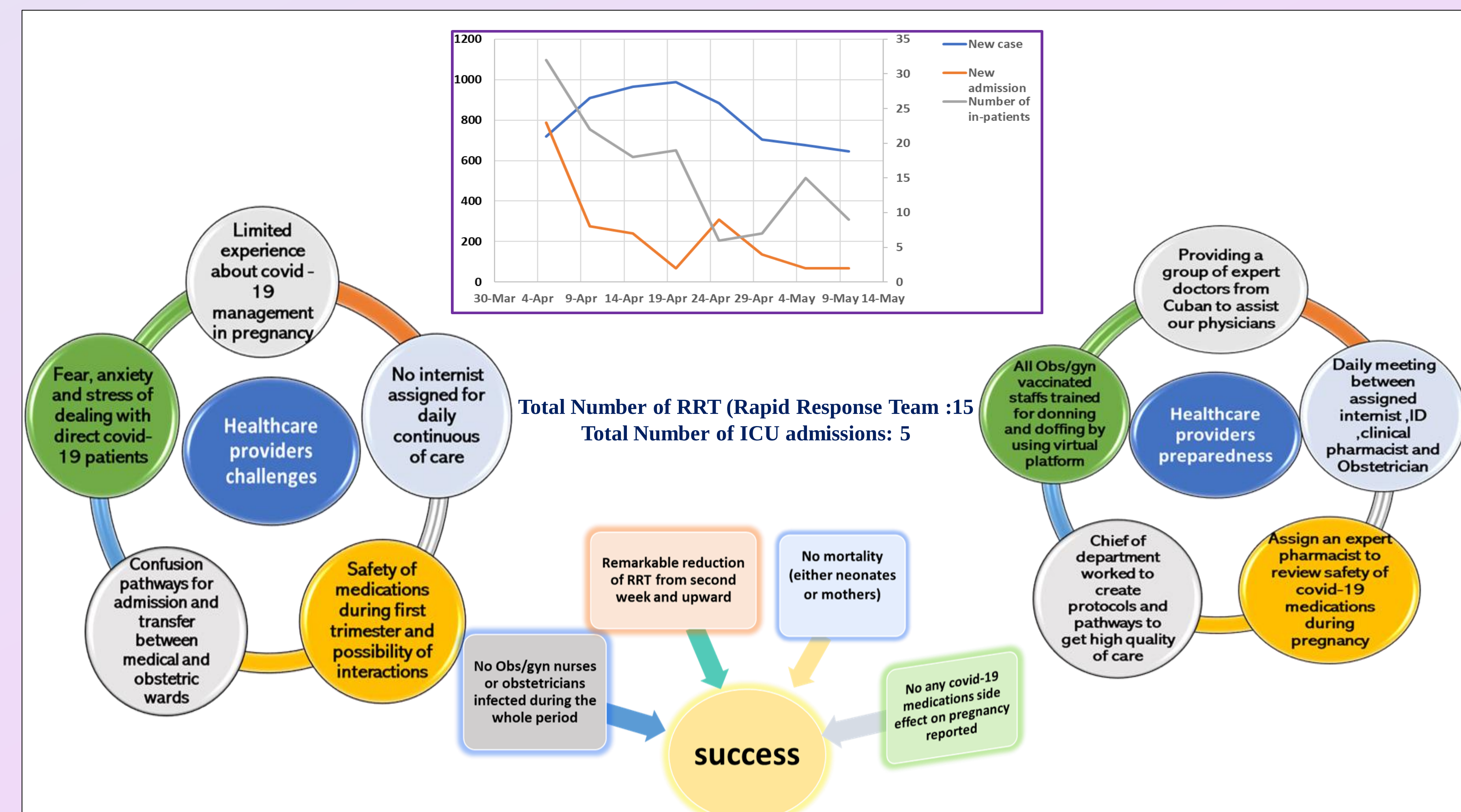
- Shifting and redirecting a big maternity unit in a brief period to exclusive COVID Obstetric unit and at the same time restarting with a new set of circumstances (COVID 19) can be incredibly challenging.
- Keeping patient centered care priority can also be challenging at the peak of Pandemic which puts health care system and staff in a demanding situation.
- Here we are sharing our challenges, actions and successful journey of Al Wakra hospital Qatar (Hamad Medical Corporation -HMC) Obstetrics and Gynecology department during second wave of COVID pandemic

Learning Objectives

- To ensure the highest quality of health care given to COVID 19 patients in terms of safety and efficacy.
- To provide effective support to team members, especially nurses and midwives, in dealing with pregnant patients with covid-19 infection including continuous medical education.
- To solve the bed capacity problem of the obstetrics and gynecology department to meet the demand of the pandemic crisis

Design

- Retrospective review of all COVID-19 pregnant women admitted to (AWH) maternity department in the second wave from April 5,2021 to May 17, 2021.
- Numbers of admissions, discharges, deliveries, rapid response team (RRT), ICU admissions, maternal and neonatal deaths were obtained from nurse's registry, recorded, and analyzed using Microsoft Excel.
- AWH is second largest Maternity unit in Qatar, dealing with > 500 deliveries/month, > 100 emergency visits daily,60 inpatient beds and having its full OPD and elective operative lists.
- With Short notice, due to increasing number of COVID patients' decision was to convert the unit to an exclusive COVID Obstetric facility in Qatar.



Conclusion

Transferring Al Wakra Hospital, Obstetrics and Gynecology department, to COVID-19 Obstetric facility was a successful story. It proved a good example that with teamwork, collaboration, and enthusiasm we can keep patient care a priority even in new and challenging situations.

Challenges

- Transferring all COVID positive admitted pregnant patient from a smaller unit to our unit safely.
- Limited Experience in dealing with COVID 19 patients directly
- Fear and anxiety of health care staff
- Communication with medical team in management of cases and their anxiety in dealing with pregnant patient
- Unclear pathways for admission in medical or Obstetric ward
- Safety on new medications in Pregnancy and interactions

• Actions taken:

- A dedicated team of Obstetricians and internist assigned to complete the transfer process in a gradual manner.
- Multidisciplinary approach: daily direct communication with Physician, ID team, Infection control and Pharmacist and High-Risk Cases with HDU and ICU team, Upgrading of Rapid response team and calling system
- 1. Updating Families using Virtual system
- 2. Admission and discharge criteria of Qatar CDC were reviewed and modified to control duration of admission of in-patients taking in consideration patient safety. Number of in -patients were
- 3. Continuous medical education during morning reports and education sessions
- 4. Actions to avoid the spread of disease and safety of health care staff

Results

- Total 504 patients were admitted to the hospital during this period.
- Number of admissions went as high as 31 /day but then reduced to 1-2per day as experience and education increased and protocols were followed despite increase in daily number of COVID cases.
- Similarly, RRT activation calls reduced from 5/day in the beginning to 1 or none.
- 79 COVID positive patient delivered (33vaginal +46 LSCS) Only 5 patients were admitted to MICU and there was no maternal or neonatal mortality.
- No significant drug interactions were noticed.

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