

Audit on the Management of Reduced Fetal Movements at Obstetrics and Gynaecology Dept., MDH



Dr. Mario Refalo¹, Dr. Charmaine Cordina², Dr. Amanda Farrugia², Dr. Elena Fava², Dr. Kirsten Gauci²,
1 – Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, Mater Dei Hospital, Msida Malta
2 – Foundation Programme, Mater Dei Hospital, Msida Malta
Contact Details: mario.refalo@gov.mt



Introduction

- Maternal awareness and recognition of fetal movements occurs between 18-20 weeks' gestation
- Highly indicative of fetal wellbeing
- Recognition of patterns of fetal movements, together with perception of acute changes and declines in frequency – compelling clinical signs
- Reduced fetal movements (RFM):
 - Common
 - May indicate potential adverse outcomes

Aims

- To correlate management of RFM episodes at the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Dept, MDH with "Saving Babies' Lives: a Care bundle for Reducing Stillbirth" NHS (2019) [Version 2]
- Increase awareness about RFM
- Propose Improvements – Patient Information Leaflet (PIL)

Method

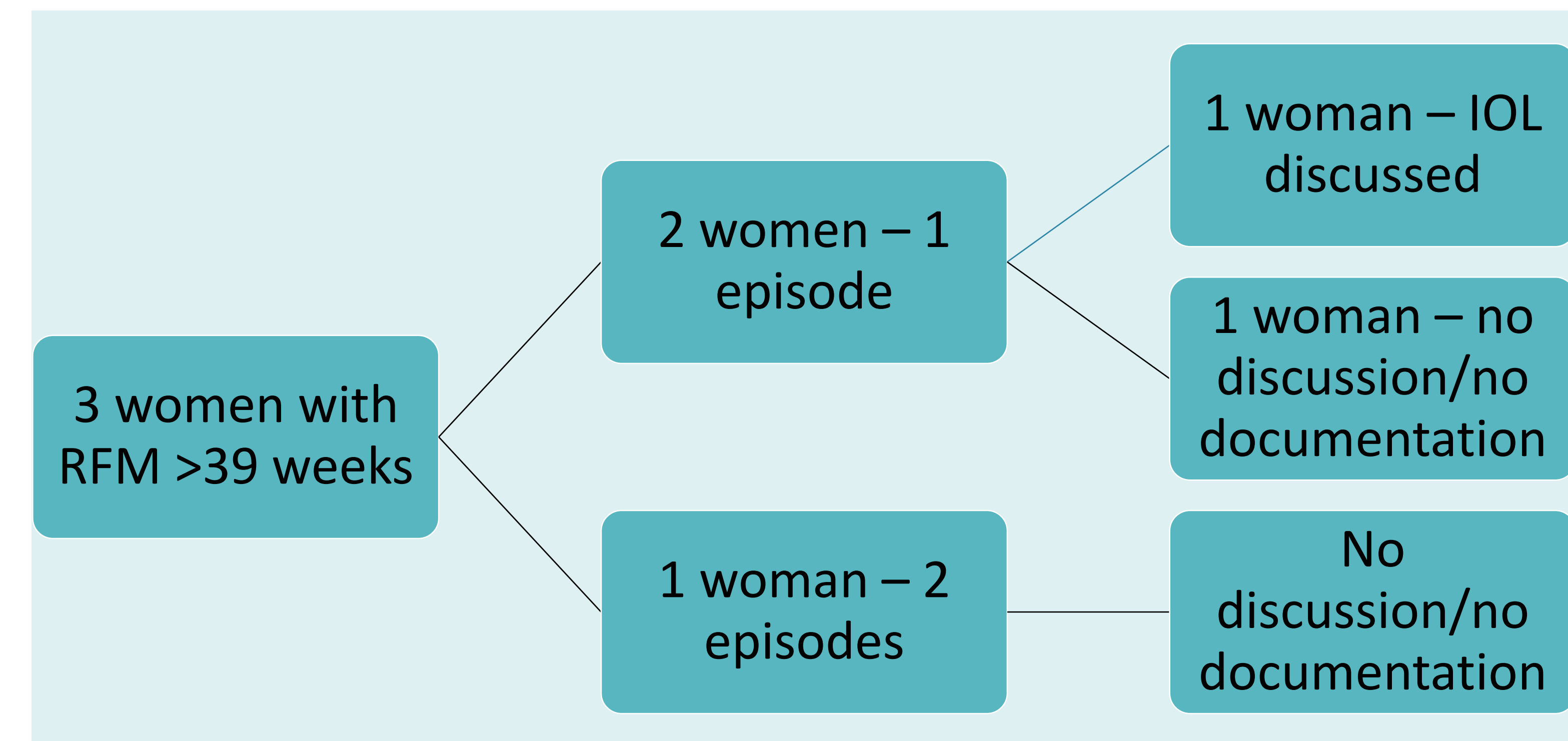
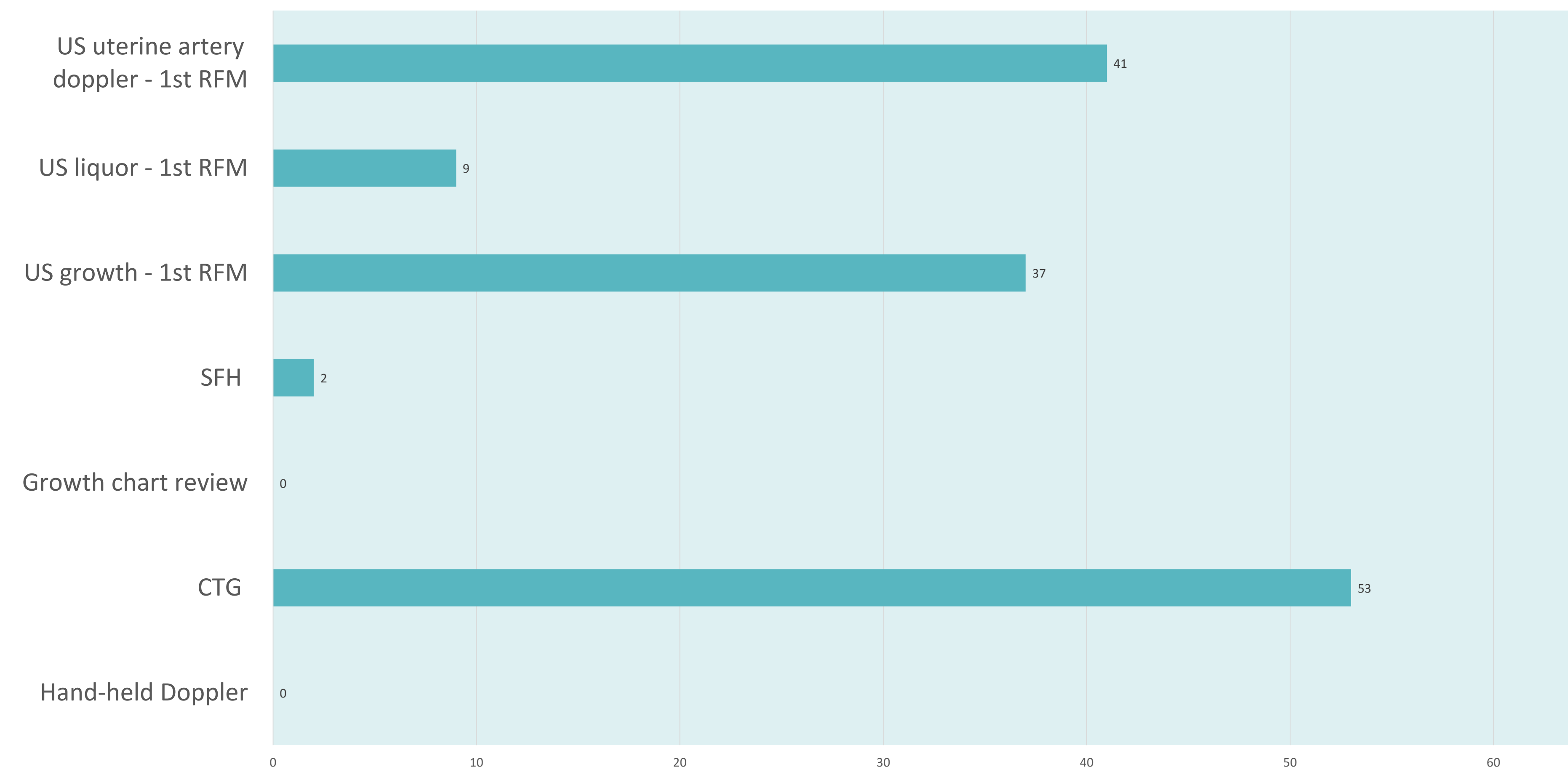
- Retrospective data collected between March and May 2021
- Study population includes all women who were in the immediate post-partum period
- Identified from birth register at Delivery Suite and traced back to their respective wards
- Identification of RFM done from antenatal hand-held and ward notes
- Data logged onto pre-set template done via Microsoft Word

Standard

"Saving Babies' Lives: a Care Bundle for Reducing Stillbirth" [Version 2] published by UK National Health Service (March 2019), linked to "Reduced Fetal Movements" Greentop Guideline Number 57 issues by the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists (RCOG) [2011]

Results

- 58 out of 627 (9.25%) of patients experienced RFM
- 89.7% - 1 episode of RFM, of which 82.8% were at 28-39 weeks' gestation
- 8.6% - 2 episodes of RFM
- 1.7% - 4 episodes of RFM



Conclusions

- Connection between stillbirth and RFM
- PIL should be given <28 weeks' gestation (not currently done at MDH)
- cCTG decreases workload on Ultrasound Department (not currently done at MDH)
- Discuss IOL at >39 weeks' gestation (1 or more RFM episode)

Recommendations

- Development of a Patient Information Leaflet about RFM <28 weeks' gestation
- Local checklist for management of RFM
- Investing in cCTG
- Guidelines for the better documentation of RFM to be used intra-departmentally