

Second Trimester Miscarriages

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1. INTRODUCTION

Spontaneous miscarriage is the commonest complication of pregnancy, occurring in about one fifth of clinical pregnancies.

Miscarriages occurring in the second trimester of pregnancy are less common and often unexpected. The incidence of miscarriage in the second trimester varies depending on the gestational age in weeks that is used in definitions.

2. AIM

To audit the management of second trimester miscarriages at Mater Dei Hospital.

To compare our local practice with the RCOG Green-top Guideline on second trimester miscarriage which was published back in 2011.

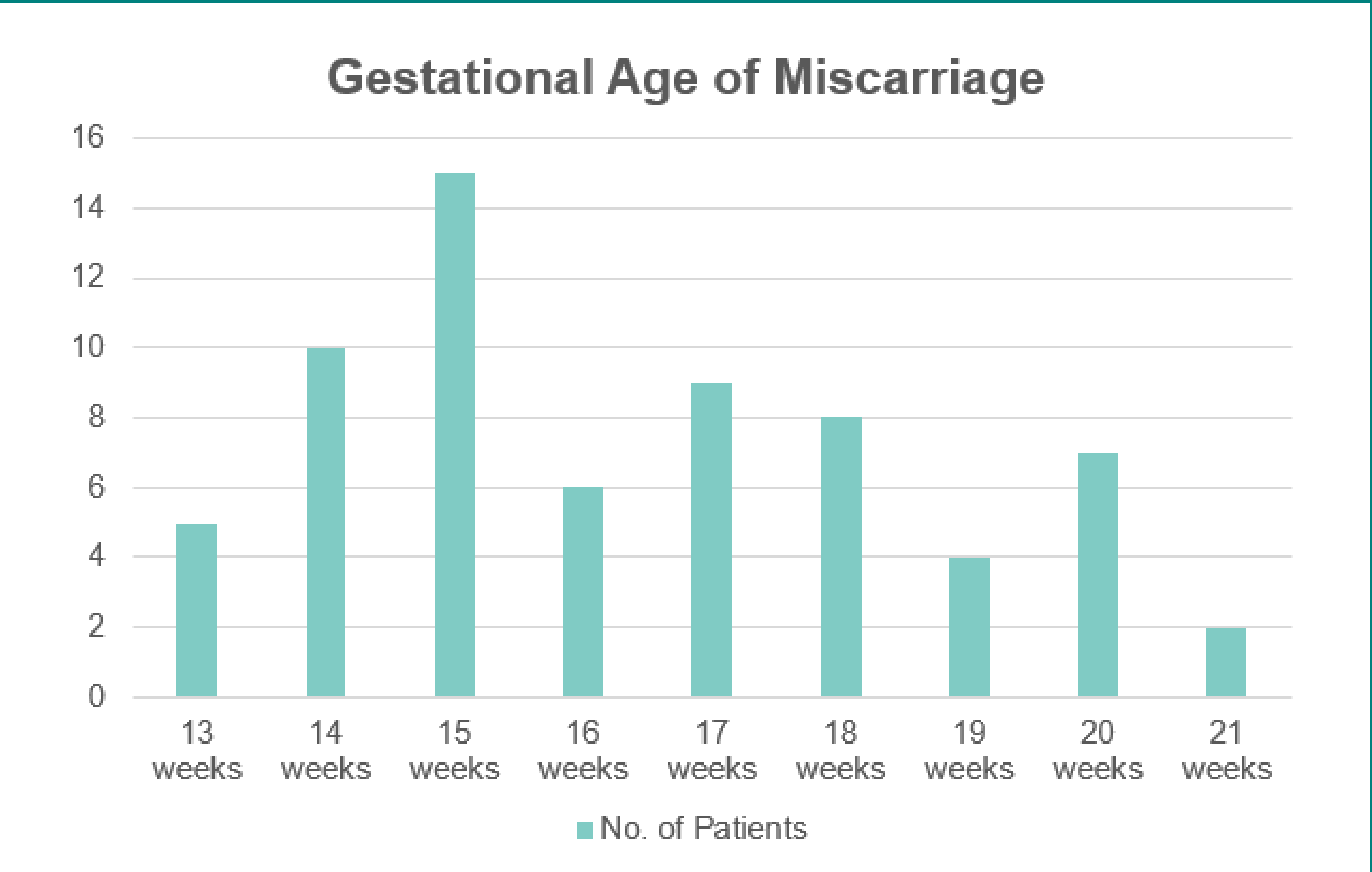
3. METHODOLOGY

Retrospective data collection from Obstetrics Wards at Mater Dei Hospital between January 2016 to December 2022.

The main inclusion criterion was miscarriages between gestational age 13 to 21+6 weeks.

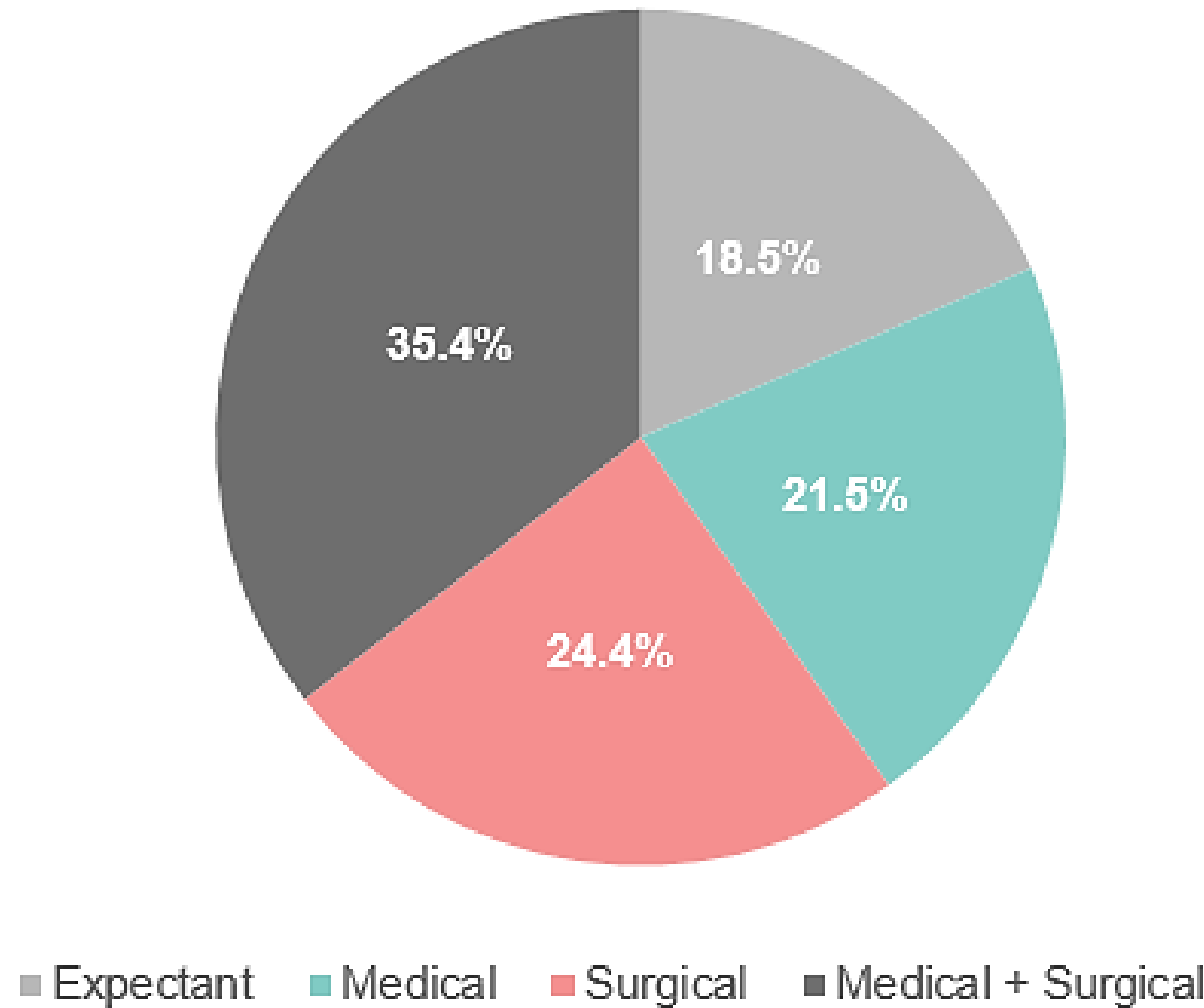
4. RESULTS

- The average maternal age was 31.3 years with ages ranging between 14 and 43 years.
- The majority of patients were namely primigravida. A history of previous miscarriage was present in 18.2% of patients studied.
- Approximately 50% of the cases experienced a miscarriage between 14 and 16 weeks of gestation.



- Follow up investigations were also analysed and it was concluded that less than 25% of patients were tested for APS antibodies and thrombophilia screening.
- It was also noted that only 9.1% of the cohort had documented supportive care in their medical records.
- In terms of management, 35% of the cohort required both medical and surgical management.

Management of Miscarriage



5. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

As per RCOG Green Top Guidelines, APS antibodies and thrombophilia screening should be part of the follow up investigations in foetal losses after the 10th week of gestation.

Therefore, local guidelines are needed for the proper investigation and management of second trimester miscarriages, including both medical and psychological support. In view of limitations encountered during data collection, a standardised method of documentation would be beneficial in order to aid future research and management concerning miscarriages, preferably in specialised miscarriage clinic.