

Outcomes Of Emergency Caesarean Section Following Failed Instrumental Delivery

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INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Instrumental vaginal births make up 11% of UK deliveries, with outcomes influenced by clinical and operator factors. Failure rates of 5–10% carry risks of maternal and neonatal complications, including rare mortality. Using multiple instruments increases the risk of physical and psychological harm to the mother.

OBJECTIVES/AIMS

This study investigates the incidence and determinants of failed instrumental vaginal deliveries. It also reviews associated maternal and neonatal morbidity. The goal is to better understand factors influencing delivery outcomes and improve clinical practice

METHODS

A retrospective review of instrumental deliveries over two 6-month periods in 2022 and 2023 was conducted. Data were collected from K2 Athena and E3 systems and analysed using Microsoft Excel. The study focused on identifying failed attempts and related maternal and neonatal outcomes.

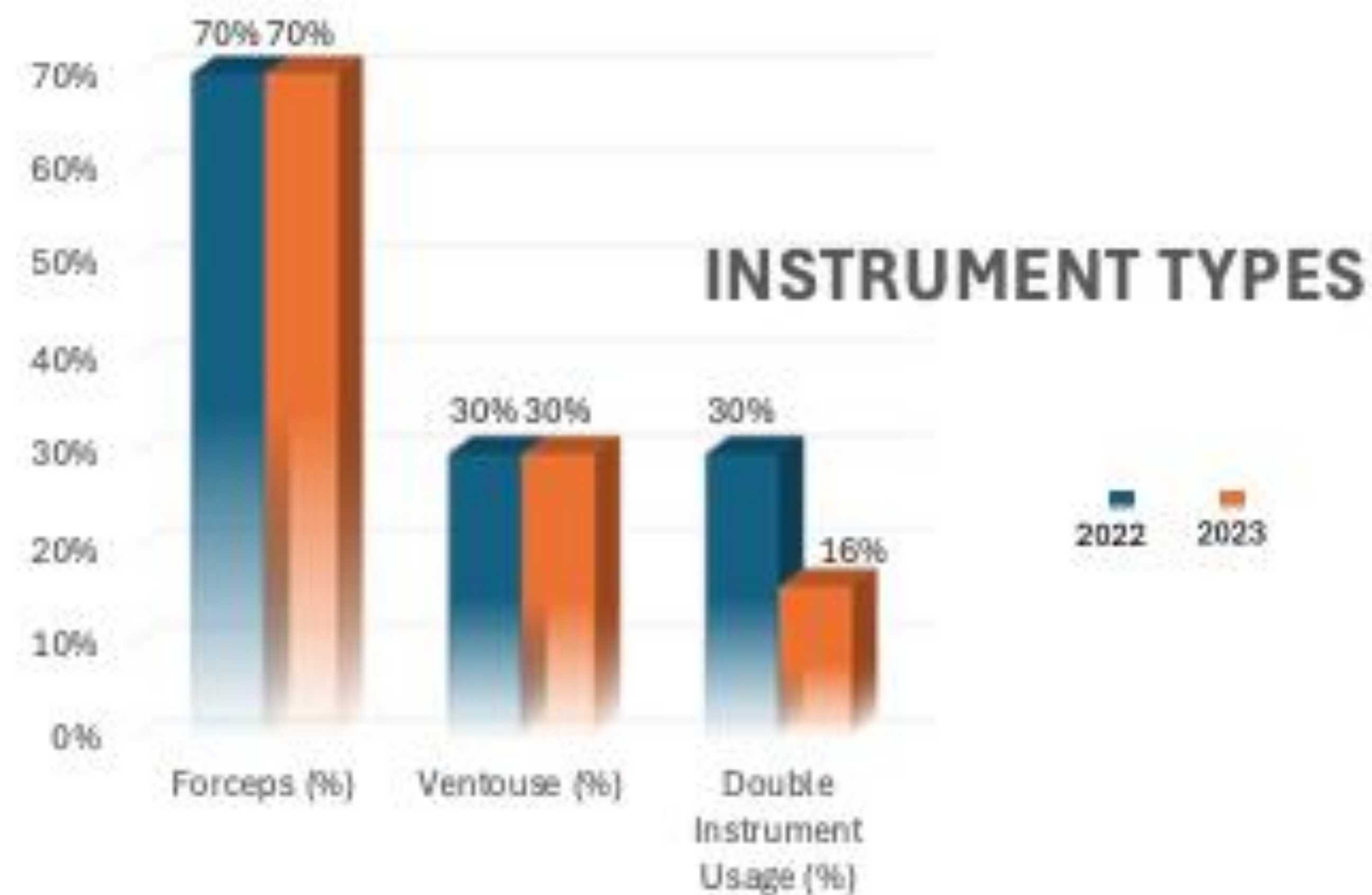
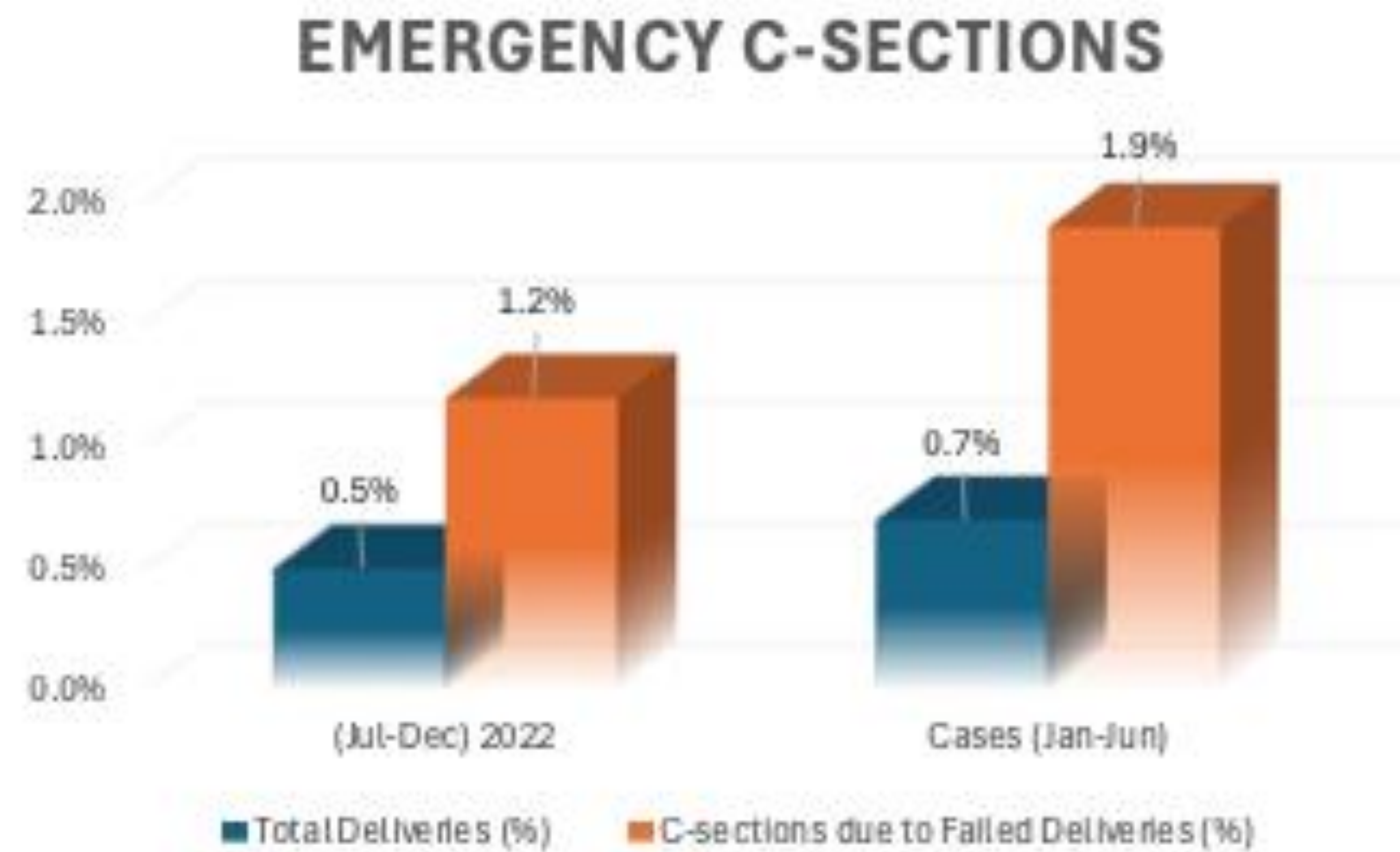
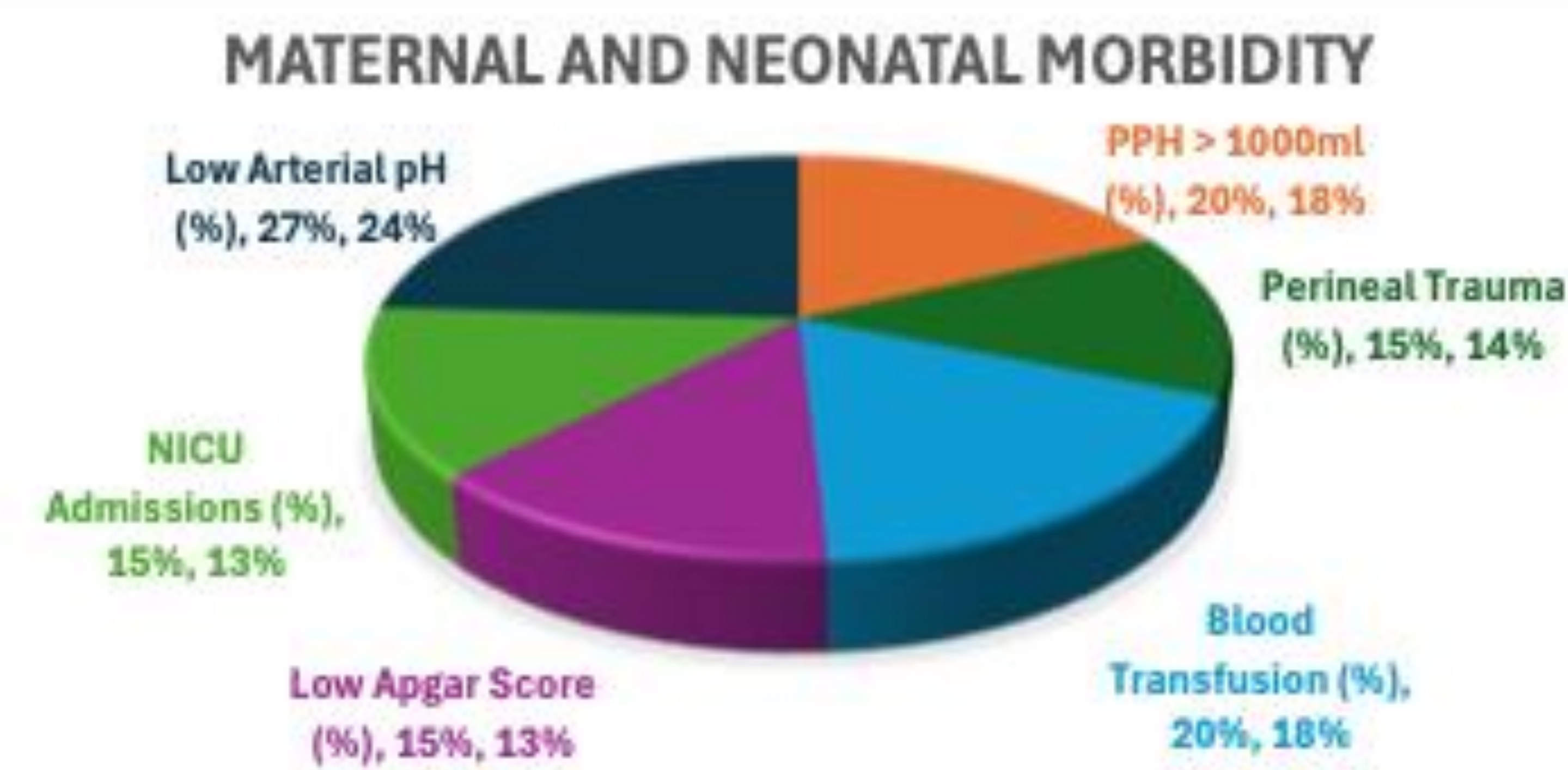
CONCLUSIONS

Forceps were used in 70% of cases and ventouse in 30%, with reduced double instrument use over time. Failed instrumental deliveries resulted in emergency Caesareans in 0.5–0.7% of births. Key risk factors included nulliparity, induced labour, fetal malposition, and trainee involvement. Maternal and neonatal morbidity remained significant, highlighting areas for improved practice

Recommendations

Recommendations include confirming fetal head position with senior support if uncertain and using intrapartum ultrasound to aid assessment. Documentation of vaginal exams should be improved, and regular training and skills drills are needed. Caesarean section criteria should include full dilatation with urgent concerns like pathological CTG. A reaudit in one year will help assess progress

RESULTS



Determinants of Failed Delivery

- ◆ Nulliparity
- ◆ Induction of Labour
- ◆ Epidural Analgesia
- ◆ Fetal Malposition
- ◆ Induction of Labour
- ◆ Postdates
- ◆ Duration of Second Stage
- ◆ Fetal Weight > 3500g
- ◆ Lack of Operator Experience

CONTACT INFORMATION

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