

Antenatal screening for FBC, antibodies and blood group checking practices at booking & at 28 weeks gestation

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Background

- Carrying out investigations such as blood tests at regular intervals throughout the pregnancy can assist in preparedness for the intrapartum and postpartum period (NICE 2021, NWHIP 2022)
- In line with best practice a full blood count (fbc) should be offered to all pregnant women at least on booking (10-14 weeks gestation) and again at 28 weeks gestation
- In line with best practice a group and antibody screen should be offered at booking and at 28 weeks gestation (NICE 2021, NWHIP 2023, RCOG 2022).

Importance of FBC check

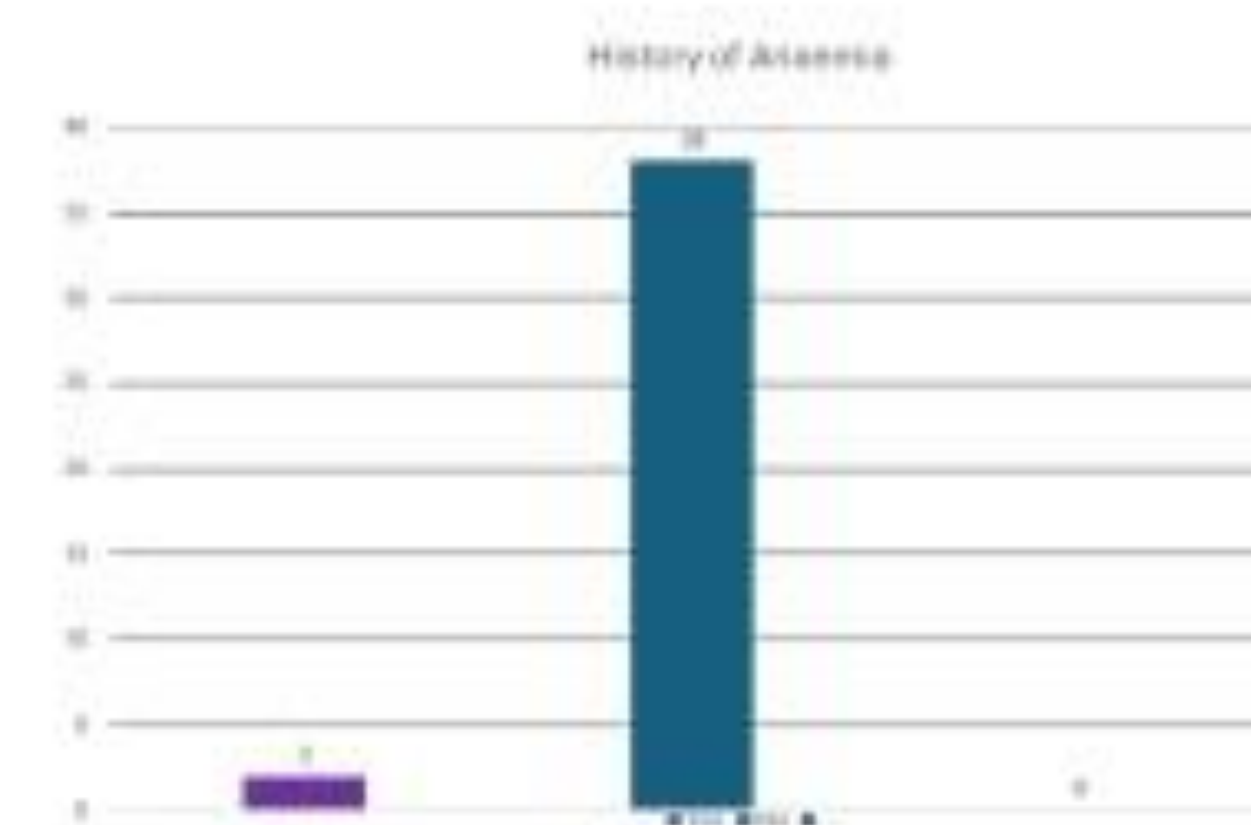
- Detection, management and monitoring of anaemia and in particular iron deficiency anaemia
- Determine blood group in the event of requiring a blood transfusion.
- Determining Rhesus factor in order to offer Anti D Prophylaxis.
- Determining if other Antibodies are present - Anti C, Kell Antibodies
- Monitoring platelet levels.
- Detection of haemoglobinopathies~ typically sickle cell disease and thalassemia.
- Prevention of postpartum haemorrhage

Process

Random selection of 40 Healthcare records using MIS
Laboratory reports

Pregnant women with hx of anemia

2 women (5%) had a history of anaemia prior to booking.



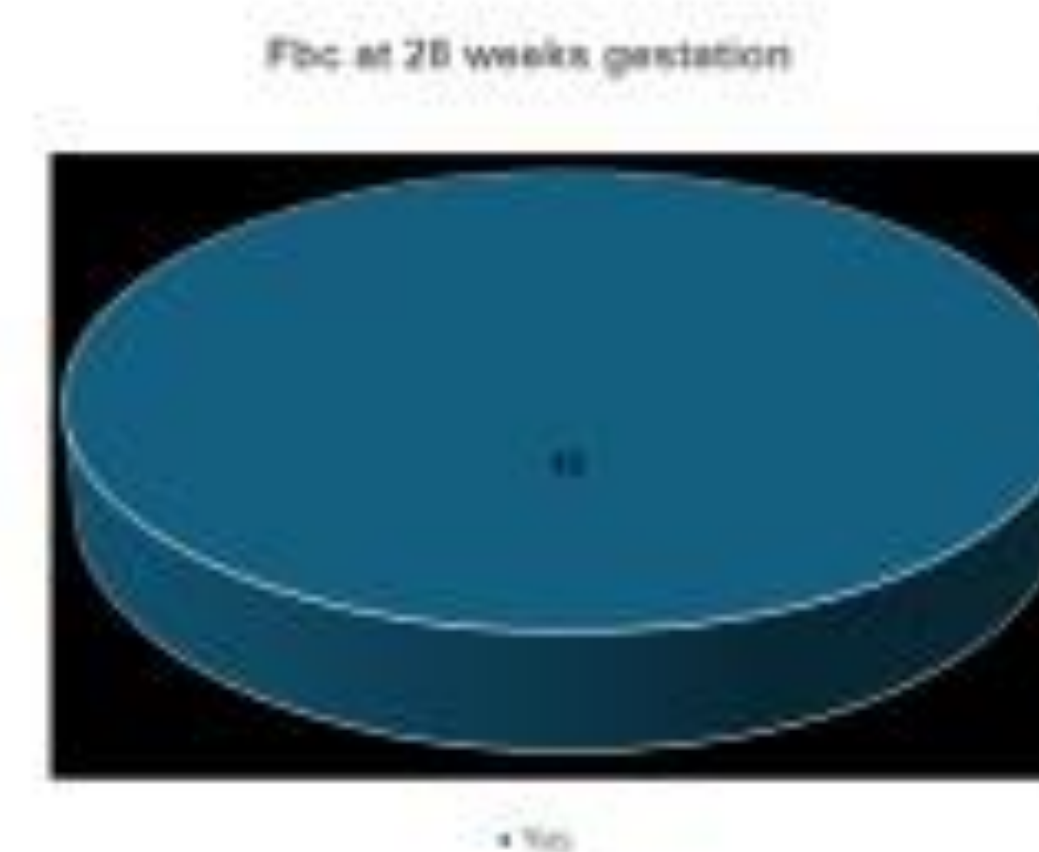
FBC at booking

- There was 100% compliance with all women having an fbc taken at booking.
- Hb levels varied from 10.9g/dl to 14.5g/dl.
- Most women had a Hb level of between 12.0g/dl and 12.8g/dl.
- 1 woman had a haemoglobin (Hb) level of 10.9g/dl.



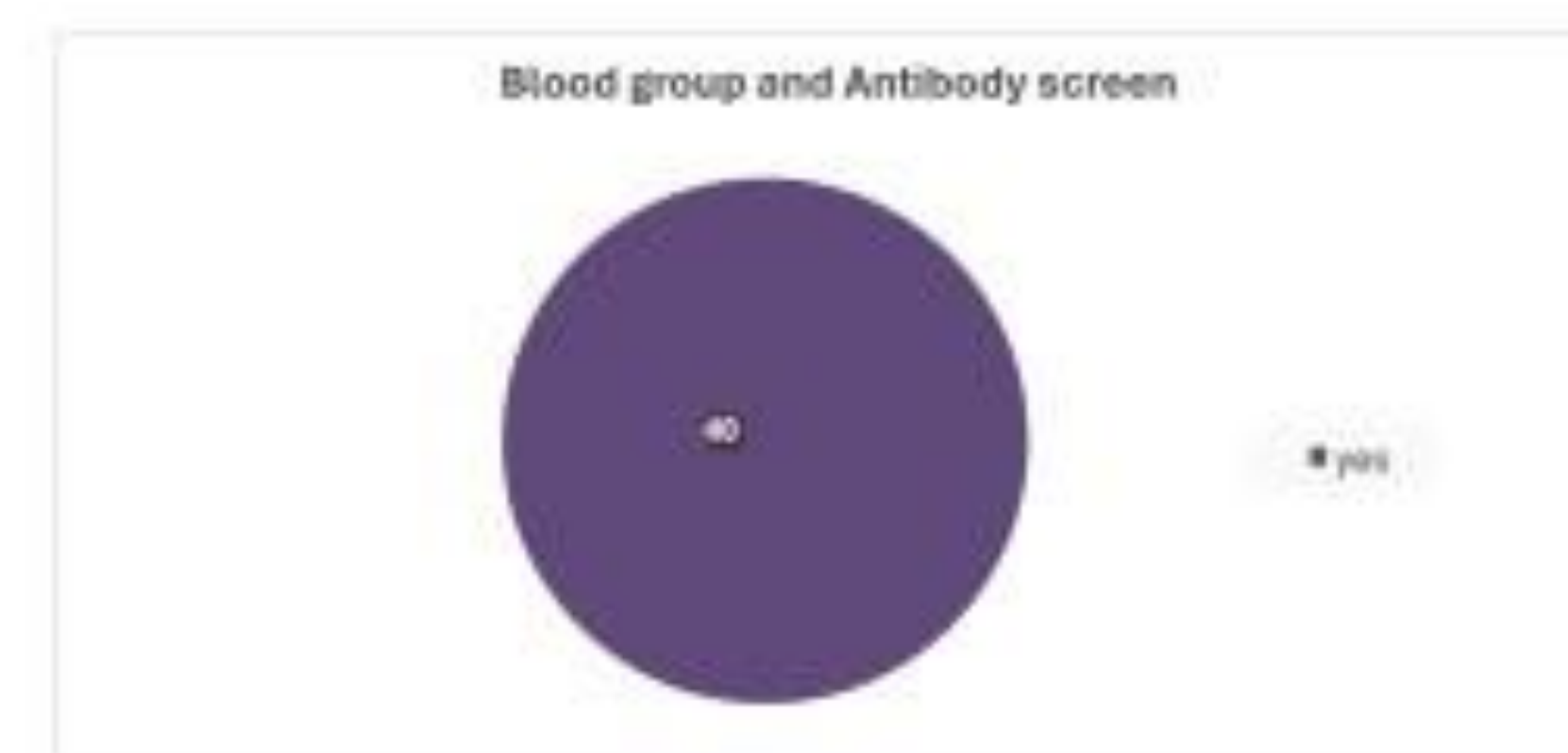
Fbc at 28 weeks gestation

- There was 100% compliance with all women having an fbc taken between 28 and 30 weeks.
- Hb levels varied from 9.5g/dl to 12.8g/dl.
- The average Hb was 11.0g/dl to 11.9g/dl.



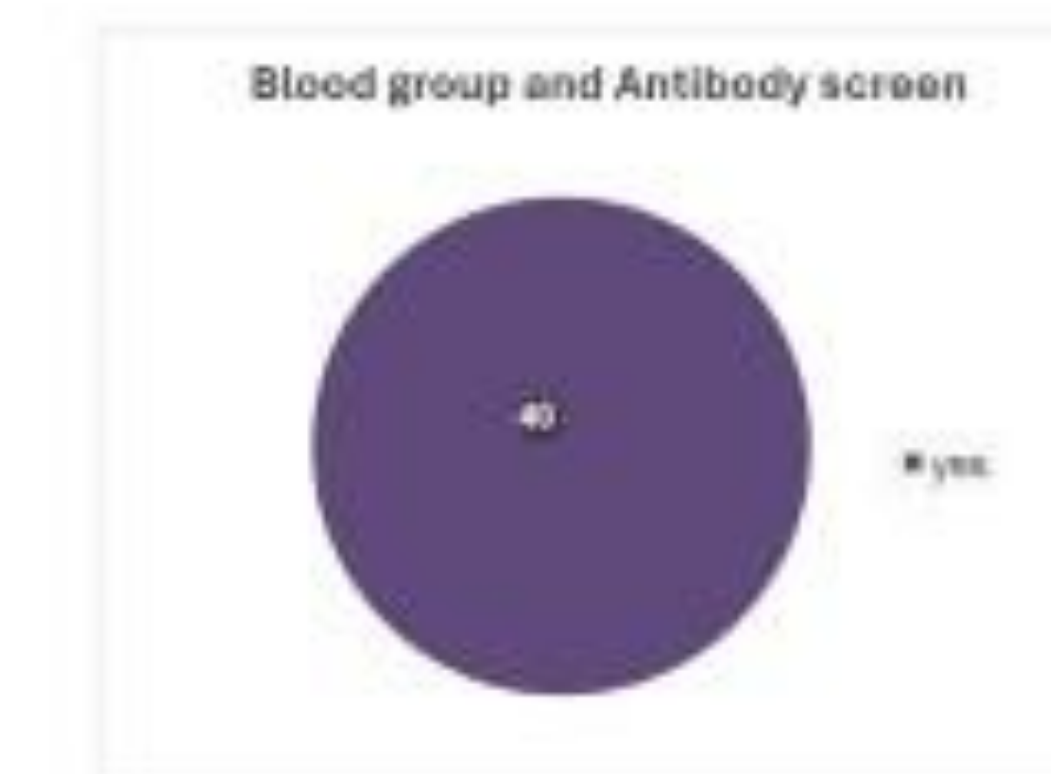
Blood group and antibody screening at booking

There was 100% compliance rate with all women having a group and antibodies screen taken at booking.



Blood group and antibody screening at 28 weeks of gestation

There was 100% compliance rate with all women having a group and antibodies screen taken at 28 weeks gestation.



Women requiring oral iron

4(10%) women were anaemic at 28 weeks gestation.

Type of the iron prescribed

- 1 woman was prescribed Galfar
- 1 woman was prescribed Active Iron
- In 4 cases women were prescribed iron but the type of preparation was not documented.

Conclusion

- 2 (5%) women were anaemic prior to booking.
- Everyone had their Hb checked at booking and at 28 weeks gestation.
- Everyone had a group and antibodies screen taken at booking and at 28 weeks gestation.
- 1 woman was anaemic at booking with a haemoglobin (Hb) level of 10.9g/dl.
- 4 women were anaemic at 28 weeks gestation.
- In 2 cases it was documented what iron preparations were prescribed namely Galfar and Active Iron.

Recommendation

- Continue in being fully compliant in offering an FBC at booking and at 28 weeks gestation.
- Continue in being fully compliant in offering a Group and Antibody screen to all women at booking and at 28 weeks gestation.
- Ensure that a copy of all blood test taken are available in the woman's healthcare record.
- Document what iron preparation have been prescribed.

10.0 Bibliography & References

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). (2021). *Antenatal care*. Available at <https://www.nice.org/article/1>.
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