

Clinical audit : Evaluation of implementation and compliance of placental growth factor (PLGF) testing in a District General Hospital in UK: NICE DG23

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INTRODUCTION

Placental Growth Factor (PLGF) testing is recommended by NICE (DG23) as a diagnostic aid for women presenting with suspected preterm pre-eclampsia between 20+0 and 34+6-weeks gestation.

This audit was undertaken with the aim to:

- Reduce unnecessary hospital admissions by identifying women at low risk
- Minimize inappropriate repeat testing and address documentation gaps

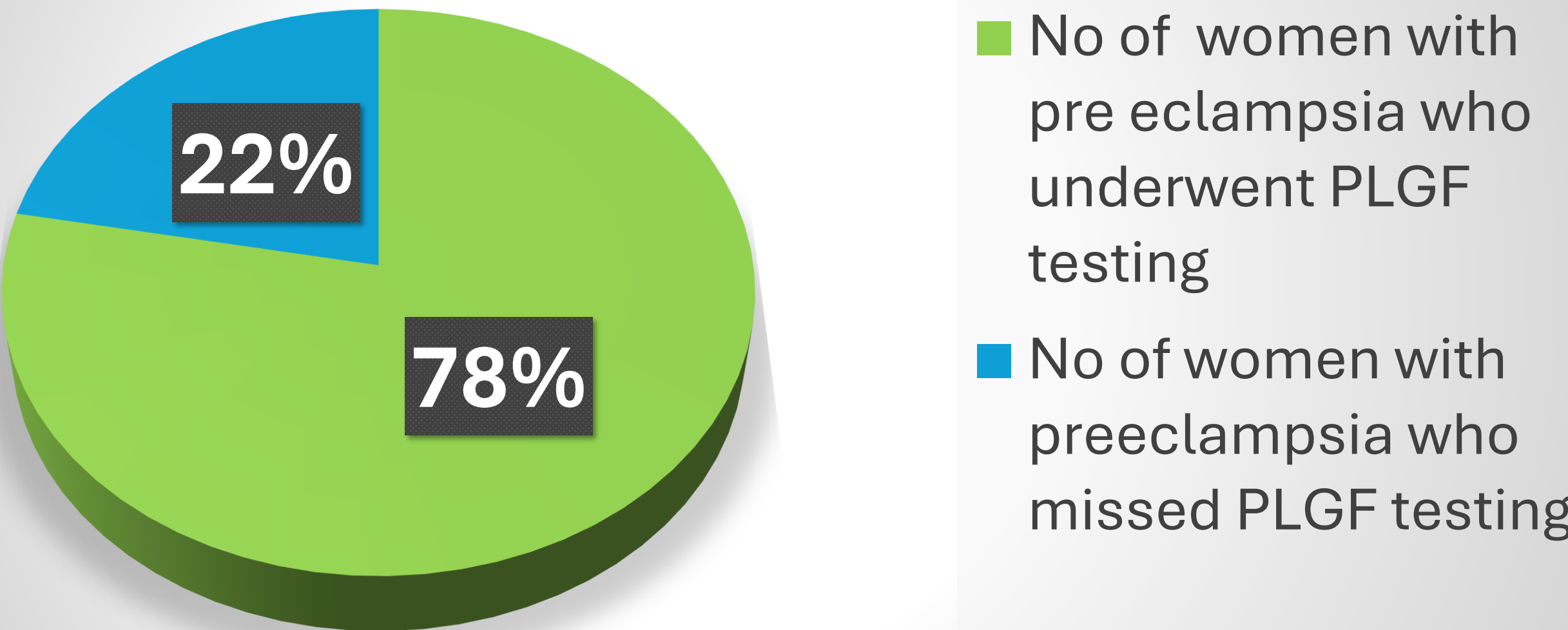
METHODOLOGY

Over a period of 16 months all women who were high risk for preeclampsia underwent PLGF testing at QEH. Patient notes were reviewed retrospectively to audit current practice against NICE DG 23

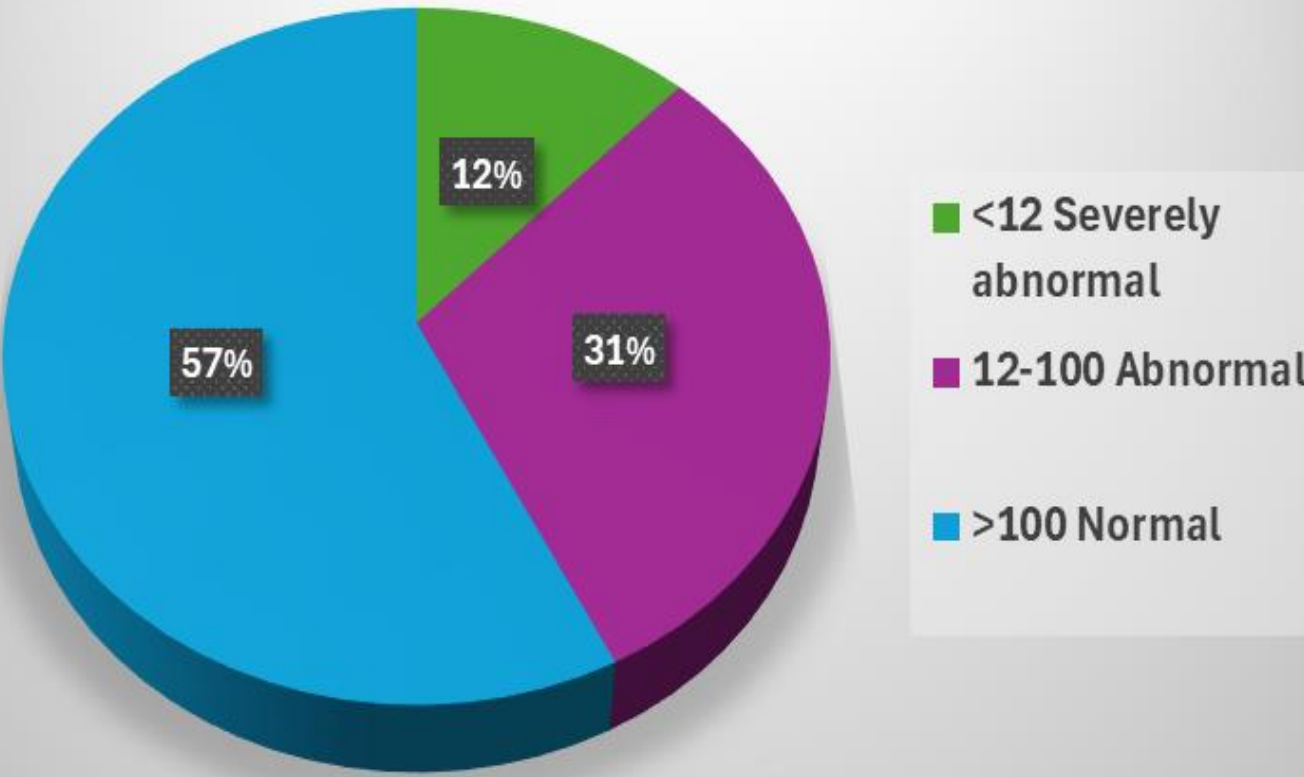
RESULTS

- 1. 117 PLGF tests were performed in QEH out of 150 high risk women for preeclampsia making compliance 78%.
- 2. 14 women PLGF<12, 36 had PLGF between 12-100 and 67 had PLGF >100 who were discharged back to routine care .
- 3. 12 overnight admissions were avoided .
- 4. 90% of results of PLGF and PET bloods were available in 24 hours.
- 5. 17 women were tested more than once.
- 6. 80% had clear documentation and appropriate management plans.

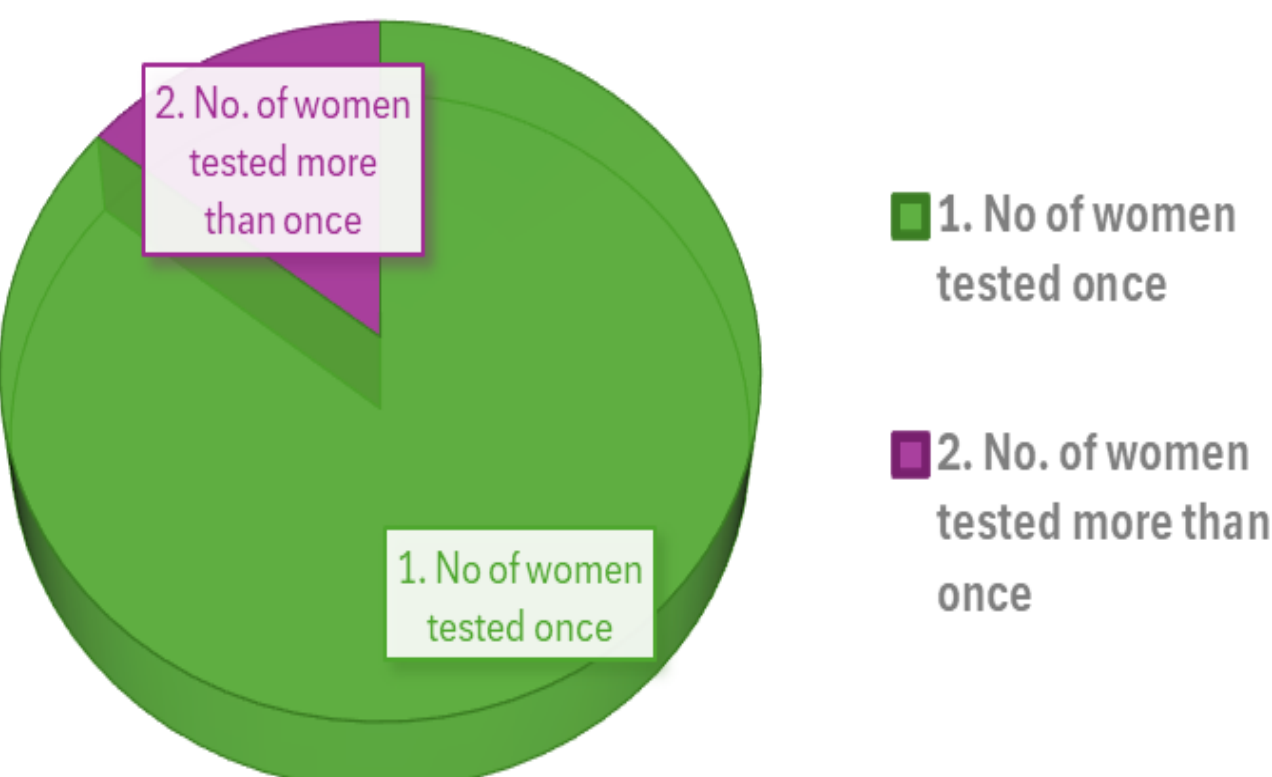
PLGF TESTING IN QEH



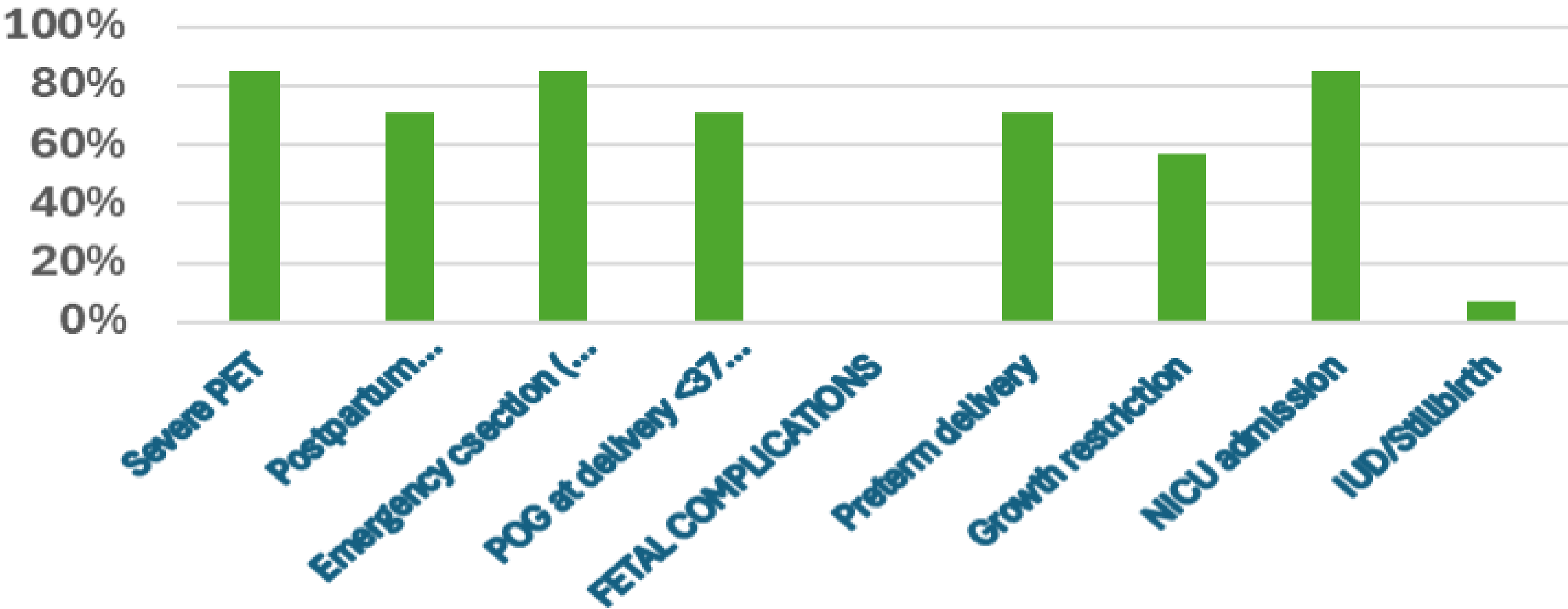
PLGF VALUE



REPEAT TESTING



MATERNAL AND FETAL COMPLICATIONS IN WOMEN WITH PLGF <12



CONCLUSION

Criteria	Standard	Actual %
1 No of women presenting with preeclampsia testing for plgf	100%	78%
2. Timeliness of PIGF Testing: • 95% of PIGF tests should be performed and results available within the stipulated time frame 24 hrs (inability to add PLGF testing to PET bloods)	100%	90%
3. Clinical Decision-Making: • 100% of patients with abnormal PIGF results should have management plans updated accordingly	100%	80%
4. Documentation and Communication: • 100% of cases should have documented PIGF results and discussions with patients regarding their significance and next steps.	100%	80%

The audit revealed significant gaps in implementation of PLGF testing when compared to NICE standards. 71% of women with PLGF<12 had an adverse pregnancy outcome suggesting PLGF is predicting these consequences. Overnight hospital stays were avoided in many cases . Moving forward, improving team education, integrating PLGF testing into existing workflow, and enhancing documentation practices are crucial to optimizing the use of PLGF testing.