

Re-Audit of Counselling, Consent and Success Rate of External Cephalic Version at Great Western Hospital (2023)

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Objective

- We re-audited the external cephalic version (ECV) service at Great Western Hospital (GWH) to ensure that recommendations from the previous audit had been fulfilled and practice is consistent with RCOG recommendations.

Design

- Breech presentation complicates 3-4% of term pregnancies¹.
- NICE Antenatal Care Quality Standard 11 recommends that all pregnant women with an uncomplicated singleton breech presentation at 36 weeks or later be offered an ECV.
- This was a retrospective audit of all patients who accepted a trial of ECV between 15/03/23 and 15/03/24, looking at documented counselling, written consent, administration of terbutaline and use of CTG before and after the ECV procedure.

Methods

- The audit standards were as per the previous ECV audit with the addition of the recommended use of the ECV pro forma.
- 29 patients booked for ECV between 15/03/23 and 15/03/24 were identified from the booking spreadsheet and their electronic records reviewed.
- 19 patients proceeded with ECV.
- A google form was used to collect data for each patient corresponding to each standard.

Conclusion

- This audit showed we are not compliant with written consent or use of the ECV pro-forma.
- We recommend introduction of an ECV pack including consent form, pro forma and patient information leaflet, to be added to the notes of all women who accept an ECV.
- Registrars performing ECV should be directly supervised by a consultant who can retry if the attempt fails.

Results

Criteria	Standard	Previous audit compliance	Re-Audit Compliance
Adequate counselling	100%	100%	100%
Appropriately trained obstetrician or midwife	100%	100%	100%
Written consent obtained	100%	66.6%	47%
Terbutaline before the procedure	100%	100%	100%
CTG Pre and Post	100 %	100%	100%
All ECV between 36 weeks and before the onset of labour	100 %	100 %	100 %
Success rate	50 %	40 %	42 %
2 nd attempt ECV after failed 1 st trial	No actual figure	3.5%	75%
No Complications	100 %	100%	100%
ECV proforma completed	100%	0%	0%

References

1.External cephalic version and reducing the incidence of term breech presentation GTG No.20a [March 2017].