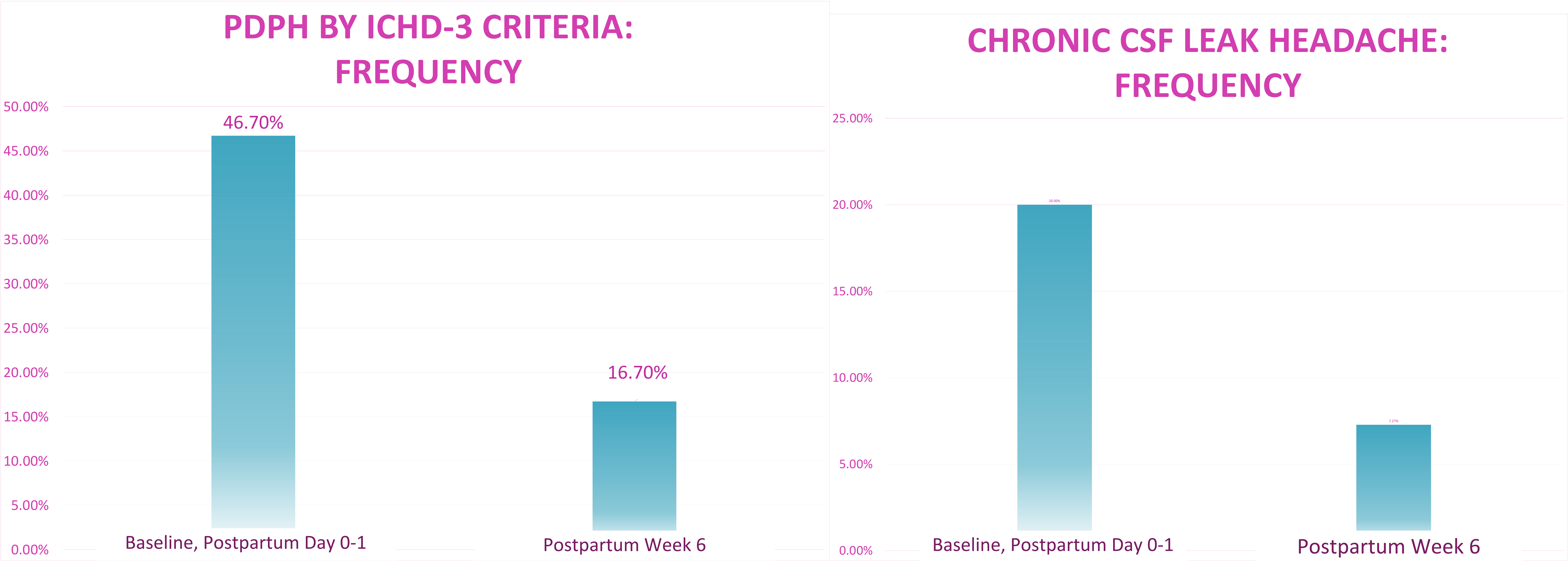


Persistent Intracranial Hypotension Headache after Unintentional Dural Puncture in Obstetric Patients: A Prospective Cohort Study

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- **Background:** Recent studies suggest post-dural puncture headache (PDPH) may not be self-limiting, begging questions about whether long-term headache after PDPH is a new-onset chronic unspecified headache or chronic cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) leak
- **Aim:** To characterize persistent headache after unintentional dural puncture (UDP) in obstetric patients
- **Hypothesis:** People with UDP will have persistent PDPH by ICHD-3 criteria and chronic CSF leak symptoms at 6 weeks postpartum
- **Design:** Prospective observational design where at baseline and at 6 weeks postpartum, PDPH by ICHD-3 criteria, chronic CSF leak headache, and disability by Headache Impact Test (HIT-6) scores were measured. Worsening headache throughout the day implicated CSF leak as the etiology of persistent headache

Results



Frequency of headache symptoms over time. A) Baseline and six-week postpartum PDPH by ICHD-3 criteria. B) Baseline and six-week postpartum low-cerebrospinal fluid pressure headache symptoms.

Results cont'd

- The baseline frequency of PDPH was 56.4% and at 6 weeks was 16.7%
- The baseline frequency of chronic CSF leak symptoms was 20.0% and at 6 weeks was 7.3%
- Three of the 5 (60%) with PDPH at 6 weeks had positive HIT-6, indicating ongoing headache disability
- 1 of 5 (20%) had no prior history of migraines or headaches before or during pregnancy

Limitations

- No control group
- However, the study purpose was to describe patterns rather than describe risk

Conclusions

- At 6 weeks after UDP, 16.7% of patients have **persistent** PDPH
- These headaches may indicate **chronic** CSF leak, and some have **new** headache disability
- Patients reporting persistent headache 6 weeks after UDP may be experiencing **persistent CSF leak**, which warrants further management

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