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16<sup>th</sup>

# Strategies to limit the Caesarean Section rate

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2016

Can the Caesarean Section rate be safely reduced?

Yes but only when it can be justified, safely implemented and accepted by women

# Caesarean Sections

Overall caesarean section rates on their own are meaningless

No perinatal event or outcome should be considered in isolation from other events, outcomes and organisational issues

### Risk-Benefit Calculus

Perinatal morbidity and mortality

Maternal morbidity and mortality

Labour and delivery events and outcomes

Complaints, adverse incidents and medico-legal cases

Staff and infrastructure resources

Maternal satisfaction and staff satisfaction

Financial

# Classifying Perinatal Outcome

– *the 10 Groups, Obstetrical Concepts and their Parameters*

<b>Previous Obstetric Record</b>	Nulliparous Multiparous without a scar, Multiparous with a scar
<b>Category of pregnancy</b>	Single cephalic Single breech Multiple pregnancy Single transverse or oblique lie
<b>Course</b>	Spontaneous labour Induced labour Prelabour caesarean section
<b>Gestation</b>	The number of completed weeks at delivery

# Classifying Perinatal Outcome

– *the 10 Group classification system (TGCS)*

The Ten Groups Have Been Created From the Previous Obstetric Record, Course, Category and Gestation

Robson MS. Classification of Caesarean Sections.  
Fetal and Maternal Review 2001; 12:23-39.  
Cambridge University Press

# Philosophy of the 10 Group Classification

Based on the premise that all information

(epidemiological, maternal and fetal events, outcomes,  
cost and organisational)

will be more clinically relevant by stratifying them  
using the 10 groups

# The 10 Group Classification

- *and the advantage of standardisation*

Any differences in sizes of groups or outcomes in the groups are either due to

Poor data quality

Differences in significant epidemiological factors

Differences in practice

# National Maternity Hospital, Dublin

## Caesarean Sections - the 10 Groups 2013

<b>1</b> Nullip single ceph $\geq 37$ wks spon lab
<b>2</b> Nullip single ceph $\geq 37$ wks ind. or CS before lab
<b>3</b> Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph $\geq 37$ wks spon lab
<b>4</b> Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph $\geq 37$ wks ind. or CS before lab
<b>5</b> Previous caesarean section single ceph $\geq 37$ wks
<b>6</b> All nulliparous breeches
<b>7</b> All multiparous breeches (incl previous caesarean sections)
<b>8</b> All multiple pregnancies (incl previous caesarean sections)
<b>9</b> All abnormal lies (incl previous caesarean sections)
<b>10</b> All single ceph $\leq 36$ wks (incl previous caesarean sections)

# National Maternity Hospital, Dublin

## Caesarean Sections - the 10 Groups 2013

Total number of caesarean sections over the overall total number of women

	<b>2013</b>
	<b>2024/8755</b> <b>23.1%</b>
1 Nullip single ceph $\geq 37$ wks spon lab	146/2040
2 Nullip single ceph $\geq 37$ wks ind. or CS before lab	468/1305
3 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph $\geq 37$ wks spon lab	31/2564
4 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph $\geq 37$ wks ind. or CS before lab	130/944
5 Previous caesarean section single ceph $\geq 37$ wks	683/1003
6 All nulliparous breeches	167/178
7 All multiparous breeches (incl previous caesarean sections)	124/138
8 All multiple pregnancies (incl previous caesarean sections)	130/198
9 All abnormal lies (incl previous caesarean sections)	40/40
10 All single ceph $\leq 36$ wks (incl previous caesarean sections)	105/345

Number of caesarean sections over the total number of women in each group

# Nulliparous Caesarean

**Size** of each group is the total number of women in each group divided by the overall total number of women

# Maternal, Dublin

# Groups 2013

	<b>2013</b> <b>2024/8755</b> <b>23.1%</b>	<b>Size of group</b> <b>%</b>
1 Nullip single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	146/2040	23.3
2 Nullip single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	468/1305	14.9
3 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	31/2564	29.3
4 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	130/944	10.8
5 Previous caesarean section single ceph >= 37 wks	683/1003	11.5
6 All nulliparous breeches	167/178	2.0
7 All multiparous breeches (incl previous caesarean sections)	124/138	1.6
8 All multiple pregnancies (incl previous caesarean sections)	130/198	2.3
9 All abnormal lies (incl previous caesarean sections)	40/40	0.5
10 All single ceph <= 36 wks (incl previous caesarean sections)	105/345	3.9

# National Maternity Hospital Caesarean Sections - the

CS rate in each group is worked out for each group by dividing the number of caesarean sections by the total number of women in each group

	2013 2024/8755 23.1%	Size of group %	C/S rate in gp %
1 Nullip single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	146/2040	23.3	7.2
2 Nullip single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	468/1305	14.9	35.9
3 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	31/2564	29.3	1.2
4 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	130/944	10.8	13.8
5 Previous caesarean section single ceph >= 37 wks	683/1003	11.5	68.1
6 All nulliparous breeches	167/178	2.0	93.8
7 All multiparous breeches (incl previous caesarean sections)	124/138	1.6	89.9
8 All multiple pregnancies (incl previous caesarean sections)	130/198	2.3	65.7
9 All abnormal lies (incl previous caesarean sections)	40/40	0.5	100
10 All single ceph <= 36 wks (incl previous caesarean sections)	105/345	3.9	30.7

# National Maternal Caesarean Sections

Absolute contribution of each group to the overall CS rate is worked out by dividing the number of CS in each group by the overall population of women

This will depend on the size of the group as well as the CS rate in each group

	2013 2024/8755 23.1%	Size of group %	C/S rate in gp %	Contr of each gp 23.1 %
1 Nullip single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	146/2040	23.3	7.2	1.7
2 Nullip single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	468/1305	14.9	35.9	5.3
3 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	31/2564	29.3	1.2	0.4
4 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	130/944	10.8	13.8	1.5
5 Previous caesarean section single ceph >= 37 wks	683/1003	11.5	68.1	7.8
6 All nulliparous breeches	167/178	2.0	93.8	1.9
7 All multiparous breeches (incl previous caesarean sections)	124/138	1.6	89.9	1.4
8 All multiple pregnancies (incl previous caesarean sections)	130/198	2.3	65.7	1.5
9 All abnormal lies (incl previous caesarean sections)	40/40	0.5	100	0.5
10 All single ceph <= 36 wks (incl previous caesarean sections)	105/345	3.9	30.7	1.2

# National Maternity H Caesarean Sections - th

Groups 1,2 and 5 contribute to two thirds of all caesarean section rates and are the source of biggest variation between units

	<b>2013 2024/8755 23.1%</b>	<b>Size of group %</b>	<b>C/S rate in gp %</b>	<b>Contr of each gp 23.1 %</b>
1 Nullip single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	146/2040	23.3	7.2	1.7
2 Nullip single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	468/1305	14.9	35.9	5.3
3 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	31/2564	29.3	1.2	0.4
4 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	130/944	10.8	13.8	1.5
5 Previous caesarean section single ceph >= 37 wks	683/1003	11.5	68.1	7.8
6 All nulliparous breeches	167/178	2.0	93.8	1.9
7 All multiparous breeches (incl previous caesarean sections)	124/138	1.6	89.9	1.4
8 All multiple pregnancies (incl previous caesarean sections)	130/198	2.3	65.7	1.5
9 All abnormal lies (incl previous caesarean sections)	40/40	0.5	100	0.5
10 All single ceph <= 36 wks (incl previous caesarean sections)	105/345	3.9	30.7	1.2

# National Maternity Hospital Caesarean Sections - the

Groups 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Small groups, high CS rates but small overall contributions to the total CS rate and very similar between different units

	<b>2013 2024/8755 23.1%</b>	<b>Size of group %</b>	<b>C/S rate in gp %</b>	<b>Contr of each gp 23.1 %</b>
1 Nullip single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	146/2040	23.3	7.2	1.7
2 Nullip single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	468/1305	14.9	35.9	5.3
3 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	31/2564	29.3	1.2	0.4
4 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	130/944	10.8	13.8	1.5
5 Previous caesarean section single ceph >= 37 wks	683/1003	11.5	68.1	7.8
6 All nulliparous breeches	167/178	2.0	93.8	1.9
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8 All multiple pregnancies (incl previous caesarean sections)	130/198	2.3	65.7	1.5
9 All abnormal lies (incl previous caesarean sections)	40/40	0.5	100	0.5
10 All single ceph <= 36 wks (incl previous caesarean sections)	105/345	3.9	30.7	1.2

# National Maternity Hospital, Dublin

## Caesarean Sections - the 10 Groups 2012

	<b>2012 775/2229 34.8%</b>	<b>Size of group %</b>	<b>C/S rate in gp %</b>	<b>Contr of each gp 34.8 %</b>
<b>1</b> Nullip single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	132/624	28.0	21.2	5.9
<b>2</b> Nullip single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	158/312	14.0	50.6	7.1
<b>3</b> Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	30/505	22.7	5.9	1.3
<b>4</b> Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	47/172	7.7	27.3	2.1
<b>5</b> Previous caesarean section single ceph >= 37 wks	176/262	11.8	67.2	7.9
<b>6</b> All nulliparous breeches	59/65	2.9	90.8	2.6
<b>7</b> All multiparous breeches (incl previous caesarean sections)	32/37	1.7	86.5	1.4
<b>8</b> All multiple pregnancies (incl previous caesarean sections)	70/97	4.4	72.2	3.1
<b>9</b> All abnormal lies (incl previous caesarean sections)	17/17	0.8	100	0.8
<b>10</b> All single ceph <= 36 wks (incl previous caesarean sections)	54/138	6.2	39.1	2.4

# National Maternity Hospital, Dublin

## Caesarean Sections - the 10 Groups 2013

	<b>2013 2024/8755 23.1%</b>	<b>Size of group %</b>	<b>C/S rate in gp %</b>	<b>Contr of each gp 23.1 %</b>
1 Nullip single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	146/2040	23.3	7.2	1.7
2 Nullip single ceph >=37wks ind. or CS before lab	468/1305	14.9	35.9	5.3
3 Multip (excl prev caesarean sections) single ceph >=37 wks spon lab	31/2564	29.3	1.2	0.4
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9 All abnormal lies (incl previous caesarean sections)	40/40	0.5	100	0.5
10 All single ceph <= 36 wks (incl previous caesarean sections)	105/345	3.9	30.7	1.2

Ngày: 01/07/2015

Thời điểm thống kê: từ 6g đến 5g59 phút ngày hôm sau

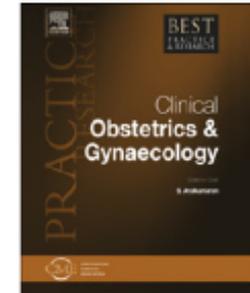
NHÓM	Hành chánh		Trực		Tổng cộng	
	Tổng số	MLT %	Tổng số	MLT %	Tổng số	MLT %
1. Con so, đơn thai, ngôi đầu, $\geq 37$ tuần, chuyển dạ tự nhiên	570	42,81	886	36,68	1456	39,08
2. Con so, đơn thai, ngôi đầu, $\geq 37$ tuần, khởi phát chuyển dạ hoặc MLT trước khi xuất hiện chuyển dạ	208	54,33	457	49,89	665	51,28
3. Con rạ (không có VMC trên tử cung), đơn thai, ngôi đầu $\geq 37$ tuần, chuyển dạ tự nhiên	336	18,15	623	13,64	959	15,22
4. Con rạ (không có VMC trên tử cung), đơn thai, ngôi đầu $\geq 37$ tuần, được khởi phát chuyển dạ hoặc MLT trước khi xuất hiện chuyển dạ	92	27,17	217	19,35	309	21,68
5. Con rạ, có ít nhất 1 VMC trên tử cung, đơn thai, ngôi đầu $\geq 37$ tuần	409	90,71	352	82,95	761	87,12
6. Con so, đơn thai, ngôi mông	47	82,98	49	83,67	96	83,33
7. Con rạ, đơn thai, ngôi mông (bao gồm cả các trường hợp có VMC trên tử cung)	38	78,95	47	85,11	85	82,35
8. Đa thai (bao gồm các trường hợp có VMC trên tử cung)	57	71,93	57	57,89	114	64,91
9. Đơn thai, ngôi ngang hay xéo (bao gồm cả các trường hợp có VMC trên tử cung)	71	53,52	125	37,6	196	43,37
10. Đơn thai, ngôi đầu $< 37$ tuần	356	66,29	411	50,85	767	58,02



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### Methods of achieving and maintaining an appropriate caesarean section rate

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# Comparative analysis of international cesarean delivery rates using 10-group classification identifies significant variation in spontaneous labor

Donal J. Brennan, PhD; Michael S. Robson, MD; Martina Murphy, RN; Colm O'Herlihy, MD

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**OBJECTIVE:** Cesarean section (CS) rates continue to rise throughout the developed world. The aim of this study was to highlight variations in obstetric populations and practices and to identify variations in CS rates in different institutions.

**STUDY DESIGN:** Data from 9 institutional cohorts (total, 47,402; range, 1962-7985) from 9 different countries were examined using a 10-group classification system based on 4 characteristics of every pregnancy, namely single/multiple, nulliparity/multiparity, multiparity with CS scar, spontaneous/induced labor onset and term ( $\geq 37$  weeks) gestation.

**RESULTS:** Overall CS rates correlated with CS rates in singleton cephalic nullipara ( $r = 0.992$ ;  $P < .001$ ). Whereas CS rates in induced labor were similar, greatest institutional variation were seen in spontaneously laboring multiparas (6.7-fold difference) and nulliparas (3.7-fold difference).

**CONCLUSION:** Ten-group analysis of international obstetric cesarean practice identifies wide variations in women in spontaneous cephalic term labor, a low-risk cohort amenable to effective intrapartum corrective intervention.

**Key words:** cesarean section, classification system, labor, pregnancy

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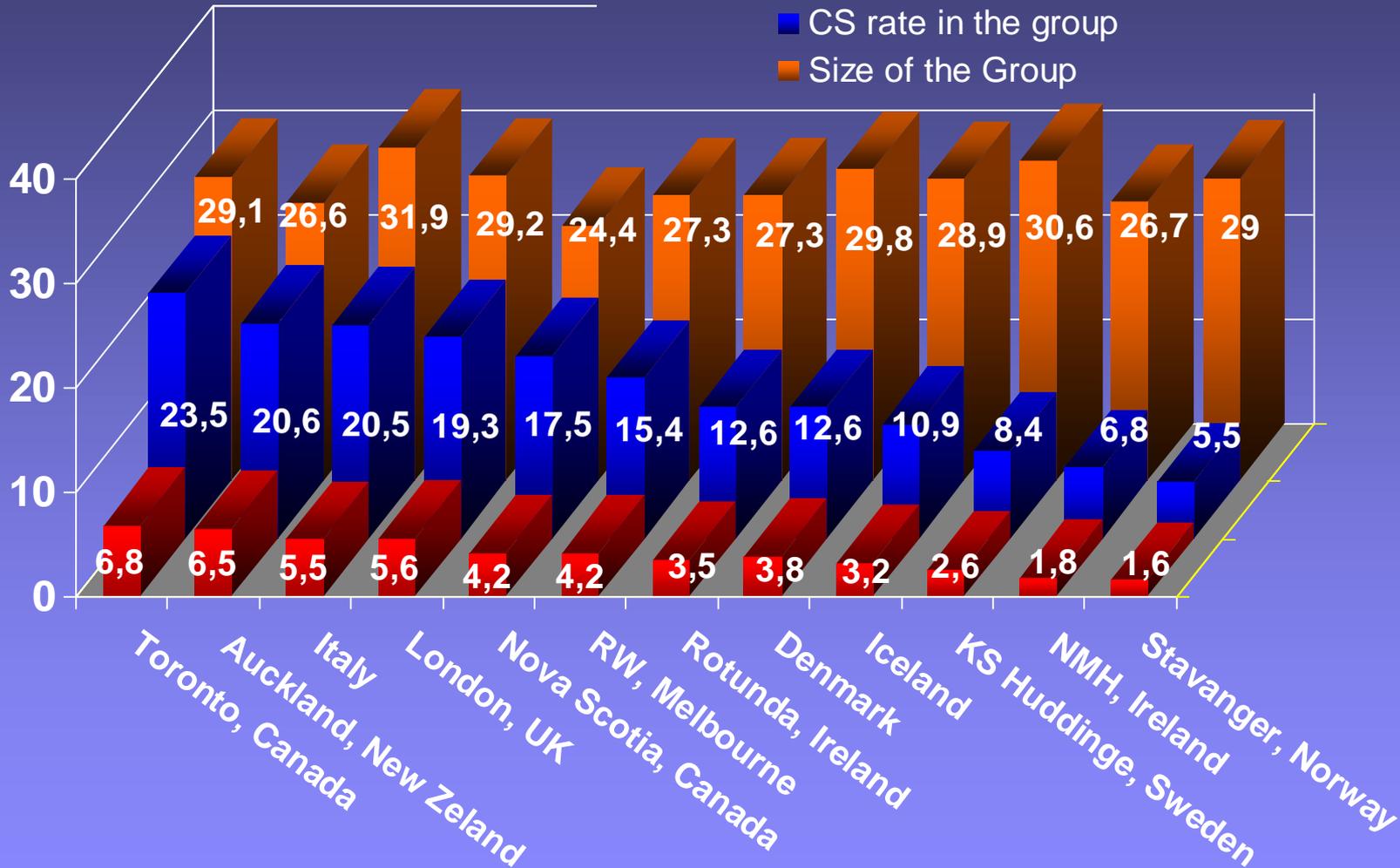
# Group 1

## Nullip single ceph $\geq 37$ wks spon lab

Global survey

- Contribution to overall CS rate
- CS rate in the group
- Size of the Group

6.4  
23.2  
27.7



# The key to an appropriate caesarean section rate

Spontaneously labouring nulliparous women with a single cephalic pregnancy at greater or equal to 37 weeks gestation (Group 1)

Dystocia

- the biggest issue in obstetrics

# Classification of indications for Caesarean Sections - in labour

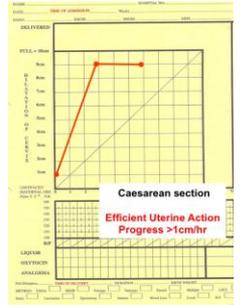
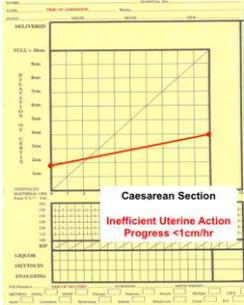
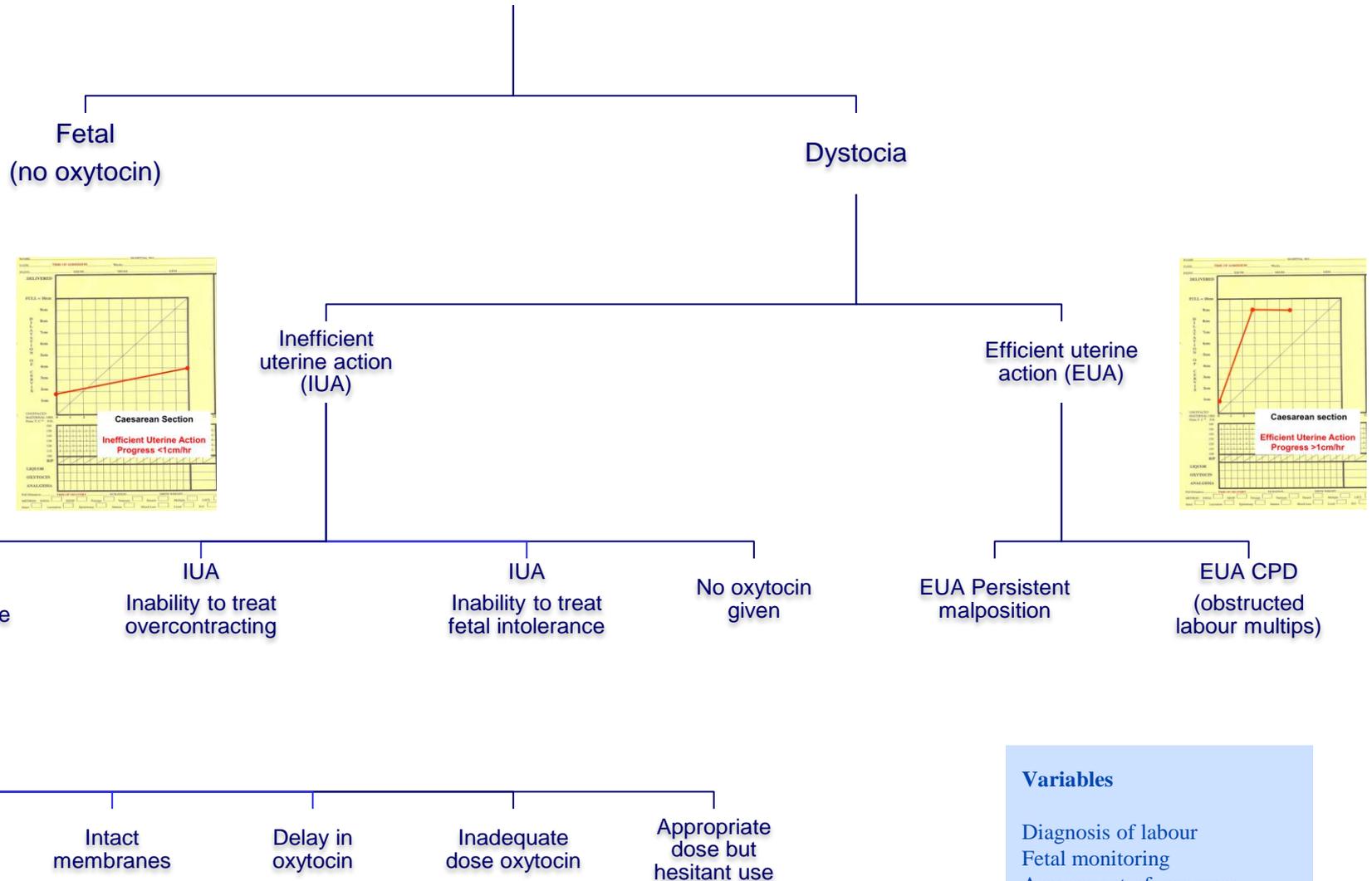
## Requirements

Objective classification of indications for CS in labour

Classification can be used irrespective of management of labour

Outcomes will reflect the management of labour (Diagnosis, membrane rupture, oxytocin regimen, criteria for diagnosis of dystocia, the incidence of dystocia and maternal and fetal wellbeing)

# Classification of CS in labour



- Variables**
- Diagnosis of labour
  - Fetal monitoring
  - Assessment of progress
  - ARM and Oxytocin regimen

# Classification of Caesarean Sections in labour Group 1 NMH 2013

## Group 1

*Caesarean section rate of single cephalic nulliparous pregnancies at greater than or equal to 37 weeks gestation in spontaneous labour 146/2040 (7.1%)*

1. Fetal reasons (no oxytocin)	25/2040	1.2%
2. Dyst/IUA/ITT/FI	72/2040	3.5%
3. Dyst/IUA/ITT/OC	30/2040	1.5%
4. Dyst/IUA/PR	9/2040	0.4%
5. Dyst (no oxytocin )	1/2040	0.05%
6. Dyst/EUA/CPD/POP	9/2040	0.4%

## Hypothesis

The incidence and distribution of your caesarean sections together with fetal and maternal outcome will depend on your timing, rate of increase and maximum dose of oxytocin. This will in turn be influenced by when you rupture your membranes

# Detailed audit of labour events and outcome Group 1 NMH 2013

Group 1	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
ARM to accelerate	1102/2040	54.0%	52.8%	53.6%	52.9%	52.4%	54.5%
Oxytocin	1100/2040	53.9%	53.9%	53.2%	51.2%	49.6%	50.5%
Epidural	1428/2040	70.0%	73.0%	73.7%	68.6%	66.4%	64.7%
Electronic monitoring	1790/2040	87.7%	86.0%	79.0%	77.2%	75.7%	73.8%
Fetal blood sample	424/2040	20.8%	22.4%	24.6%	21.5%	20.3%	21.7%
Vaginal operative delivery	479/2040	23.5%	24.0%	24.6%	25.7%	27.8%	28.0%
Apgars <7 at 5 mins	14/2040	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%	0.2%	0.6%	0.8%
Cord pH < 7.0	4/2040	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%
Overall caesarean section rate	146/2040	7.2%	9.3%	7.4%	7.5%	7.8%	6.1%
Caesarean section at VE=10	19/2040	0.9%	1.2%	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%	1.1%
Admitted to Neonatal Unit	349/2040	17.1%	10.1%	11.7%	10.6%	9.8%	7.2%
Episiotomy*	936/2040	45.9%	48.6%	56.8%	56.1%	52.6%	56.0%
OASIS*	55/2040	2.7%	3.1%	2.5%	2.9%	2.6%	3.4%
Length of labour > 12 hrs	59/2040	2.9%	3.4%	2.8%	2.2%	1.5%	3.7%
Babies >=4.0kg	296/2040	14.5%	15.4%	15.9%	13.6%	13.2%	14.1%
Aged >=35	374/2040	18.3%	16.7%	16.7%	14.5%	14.0%	14.2%
BMI >30	146/2040	7.2%	8.2%	8.1%	8.4%	7.2%	9.3%
PPH >1000mls	34/2040	1.7%	1.3%	1.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%
HIE	1/2040	0.05%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Blood transfusion rate	35/2040	1.7%	1.5%				

\* includes Episiotomy and Sphincter Damage (23)

# Detailed audit of labour events and outcome Group 3 NMH 2013

Group 3	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
ARM to accelerate	1472/2564	57.4%	59.3%	60.5%	59.1%	56.5%	58.6%
Oxytocin	97/2564	3.8%	4.6%	4.0%	3.4%	3.8%	4.9%
Epidural	882/2564	34.4%	35.0%	34.9%	30.7%	30.2%	30.4%
Electronic monitoring	1697/2564	66.2%	54.9%	45.2%	41.8%	43.2%	45.0%
Fetal blood sample	76/2564	3.0%	3.4%	3.7%	3.4%	2.8%	3.5%
Vaginal operative delivery	71/2564	2.8%	3.5%	2.5%	3.1%	4.0%	4.0%
Apgars <7 at 5 mins	9/2564	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%
Cord pH < 7.0	4/2564	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Overall caesarean section rate	31/2564	1.2%	1.7%	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%	1.2%
Caesarean section at VE=10	4/2564	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Admitted to Neonatal Unit	/2564	0.0%	4.7%	4.9%	5.4%	4.7%	4.2%
Episiotomy*	174/2564	6.8%	8.1%	8.8%	10.3%	10.4%	12.1%
OASIS*	26/2564	1.0%	0.7%	1.0%	0.5%	0.9%	1.1%
Length of labour >12 hrs	5/2564	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%
Babies >=4.0kg	641/2564	25.0%	26.0%	26.6%	23.2%	24.3%	23.1%
Aged >=35	1047/2564	40.8%	40.8%	37.3%	38.7%	37.3%	35.3%
BMI >=30	283/2564	11.0%	11.9%	11.4%	13.6%	10.5%	15.8%
PPH >1000mls	28/2564	1.1%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
HIE	4/2564	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Blood transfusion rate	22/2564	0.9%	0.7%				

\*includes Episiotomy and Sphincter Damage (4)

# Classification of indications for Caesarean Sections - prelabour

Fetal

Maternal

No medical reason

# Caesarean section on request

## Definition

At the time of the request in the opinion of the obstetrician there is a greater relative risk of a significant adverse outcome to mother or baby by carrying out a caesarean section than awaiting spontaneous labour and delivery or inducing labour

(within any of the 10 groups)

## Caesarean Section Rates: Much Ado about Nothing or a Marker of Quality Care?

Grace Neville, Michael Robson

Current Progress in Obstetrics & Gynaecology / Volume-2

*“Women will always choose the type of delivery that seems safest for them and their babies”*

*“If women choose a type of delivery that we disagree with then either they may be right and we may be wrong, the care that is being provided is not what we think it is or appropriate information is not available”*

# Summary

Labour ward audit is important irrespective of caesarean section rate

Group 1 is the key to an appropriate caesarean section rate

**Many thanks for your listening!**

