Placenta Praevia – Can We Do Any Better?
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Introduction
The global prevalence of Placenta Praevia (PP) is 1 in 200–390 pregnancies.1 PP is associated with a high incidence of maternal and perinatal morbidity, which has not improved despite advances in technology.2,3 This study was undertaken to analyse the outcome of PP in a major tertiary centre.

Methodology
This retrospective observational study recruited women who presented to the Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital with PP between 2009 and 2018. All placenta accrete spectrum disorders were excluded.

Primary outcome measures included intraoperative medical and surgical management as well as post-partum maternal complications; secondary outcome measures included neonatal outcomes.

Results
A total of 378 women of 45,074 (1 in 119) deliveries were diagnosed with PP.

- 146 (39%) were intramural.
- 91% were interstitial.
- 62.4% had APH at least once.
- 31.9% had a history of previous PP.

• 103 (27%) had a history of previous infection.
• 55 (15%) had a history of previous smoking.

• 89% were live births.
• 9% were stillbirths.
• 2% were neonatal deaths.

• 210 patients had no post-op complication.
• 158 patients had post-op anaemia.
• Post-partum length of stay (days):
  - <5 (82%) 6–9 (13%) 10+ (5%)
• No ICU admissions/maternal deaths recorded.

Neonatal Outcomes
- Gender: Male 188, Female 190
- Birth weight: Mean 2600g, Median 2790g
- 137 babies (36.2%) BW <2500g
- 104 newborns (27.5%) had no complications.

- Nursery admissions:
  - Special care: 214 babies (56.6%)
  - Intensive care: 140 babies (37.0%)

CONCLUSION

The incidence of PP is much higher in our population. Though our hysterectomy rate is low, our transfusion rates, post-delivery loss and length of stay are comparable to other studies. Outcomes could be further improved by using tranexamic acid, embolization, and internal iliac artery ligation.

References