



Introduction

Operative vaginal births are recognized risk factors for maternal infection. The ANODE trial found that women who were allocated to co-amoxiclav had significantly fewer confirmed or suspected infection compared to women allocated to placebo RR 0.58, 95% CI 0.49 – 0.69, $p < 0.0001$ ¹. The Royal College of Obstetricians recently updated their guidelines on assisted vaginal delivery to recommend a single prophylactic dose of intravenous amoxicillin and clavulanic acid following assisted vaginal birth². The guideline gives no recommendations for penicillin allergy.

Our obstetric department at University Hospital Crosshouse, Kilmarnock have updated our prophylactic antibiotics guidelines to include a single dose of amoxicillin and clavulanic acid 1.2g IV following assisted vaginal delivery. An alternative combination of Clindamycin 600mg IV and Gentamicin IV (dose per prophylactic dosing table) was available for patients with a penicillin allergy.

Method

This was a retrospective study. Patients who required assisted vaginal deliveries were identified via the birthing register. Labour and delivery notes, anaesthetic records and drug prescription charts were used to identify which antibiotic was given and their administration time in relation to delivery.

Results

A total of 23 women were identified to have undergone assisted vaginal delivery between 1st and 31st of July 2020 with 20 forceps and three vacuum assisted deliveries. 18 of these deliveries took place in the labour suite while 5 occurred in the operating theatre.

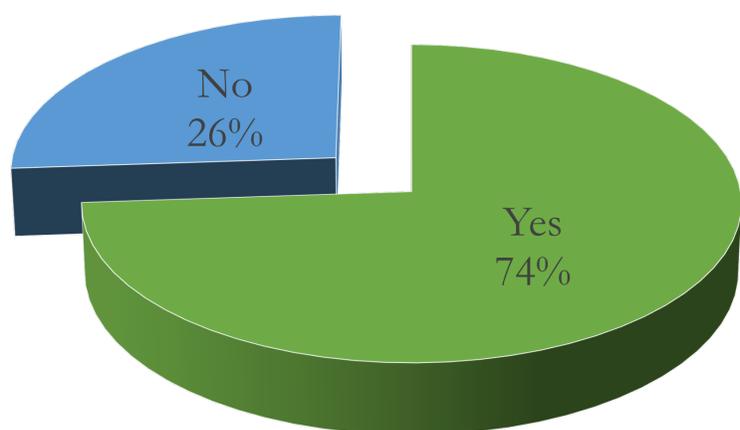


Chart 1: Prophylactic antibiotics given per regime?

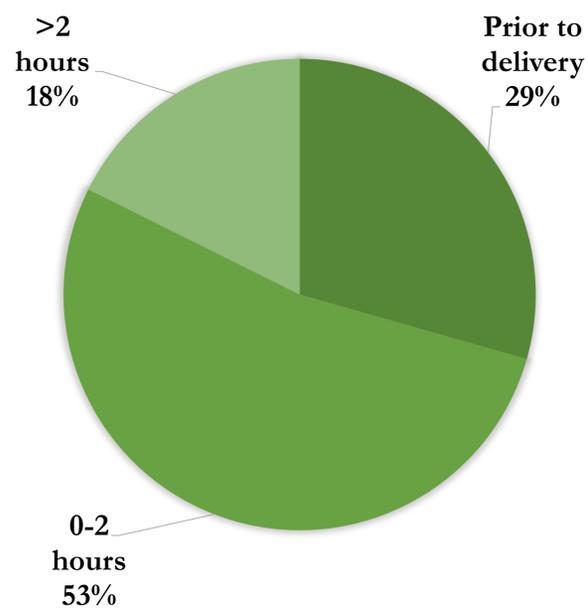


Chart 2: Timing of Antibiotics

Discussion

This project has highlighted a need for education following a change in policy on labour ward. This is particularly evident in the penicillin allergic group. We have created educational posters to remind staff on labour ward about the change to the antibiotic regime and updated our healthboard's antimicrobial "app". The authors hope to improve communication between labour ward and theatre to avoid omission or repeat dosing by highlighting this during the pre-operative safety brief.

References:

1. M. Knight, V. Chiochia, P. Christopher, O. Rivero-Arias, X.Y. Hua, K. Hinshaw et.al Prophylactic antibiotics in the prevention of infection after operative vaginal delivery (ANODE): a multicenter randomized controlled trial. *The Lancet* 2019; 393: 2396 - 2403
2. DJ Murphy, BK Strachan, R Bahl, on behalf of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Assisted Vaginal Birth. *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2020; 127: e70 - 2112