

# Undiagnosed Breech: Can We Do Better?



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## INTRODUCTION

- Incidence of undiagnosed breech presentation at term varies from 16-33%, with some studies suggesting its association with higher maternal and neonatal mortality.
- Detection of breech presentation during the antenatal period allows for appropriate counselling of external cephalic version (ECV) and mode of delivery.

## OBJECTIVE

To examine the incidence of missed breech presentations in a tertiary maternal unit, evaluate current detection processes and rates of associated maternal and neonatal outcomes.

## METHODS

- A retrospective observational analysis was conducted of all term breech deliveries in a tertiary maternity unit from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.
- Patients' information, pregnancy and labour details were obtained from the Queensland Integrated Electronic Medical Record system.

## RESULTS

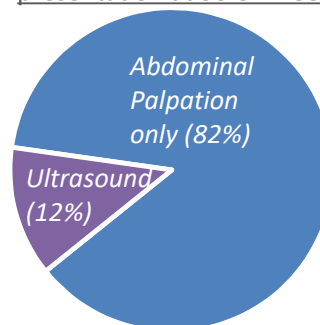
- 555 singleton breech deliveries at term
- 100 (18%) were not diagnosed until after onset of labour

## DISCUSSION

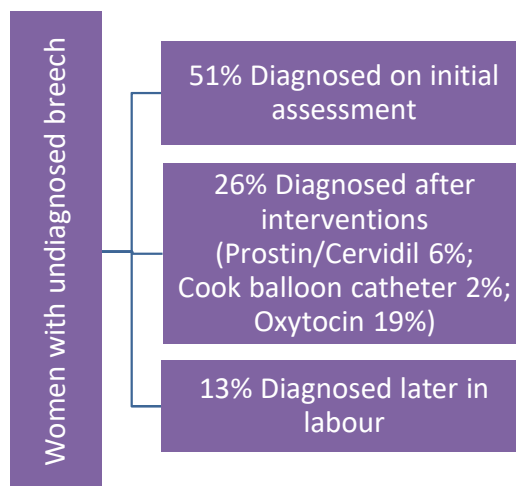
- Current detection process resulted in a high rate of undiagnosed breech presentations among women who were otherwise low risk, missing out on antenatal counselling and consideration for ECV.
- Clinicians should be proficient with basic bedside ultrasound which should be routinely performed for all women at their 36-week antenatal visit and prior to labour interventions to confirm fetal presentation.

## RESULTS

94% of women with undiagnosed breech were documented as cephalic presentation at 36-37 weeks



On Admission to Labour Ward



Maternal and Neonatal Outcomes

