

Rate of exclusive breastfeeding/breast milk feeding among women with placenta accreta spectrum

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Introduction

It has been observed in antenatal clinics that women with placenta accreta spectrum (PAS) wish to be counselled on their chance of breastfeeding postpartum. However, there is limited data on this outcome. King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) is a Baby Friendly Health Initiative-accredited health service that aims to achieve 75% exclusive breastfeeding/breast milk feeding rate at time of discharge.

Aim

To determine the rate of exclusive breastfeeding/breast milk feeding at time of maternal discharge for women with PAS.

Methods

- Medical records were reviewed of women with PAS delivering at KEMH between January 2018 and June 2023.
- Associations between continuous variables were assessed using the Mann Whitney U test or independent t-test.
- Associations between categorical variables were assessed using the chi square test or Fisher's exact test.

Results

- Of 44 women, 25 (54.5%) exclusively breastfed/breast milk fed their infant at time of discharge.
- All women underwent a hysterectomy at the time of delivery or during their admission and were admitted to the high dependency unit postpartum.
- Exclusive breastfeeding/breast milk feeding was associated with earlier gestational age at delivery and different maternal/neonatal discharge date.

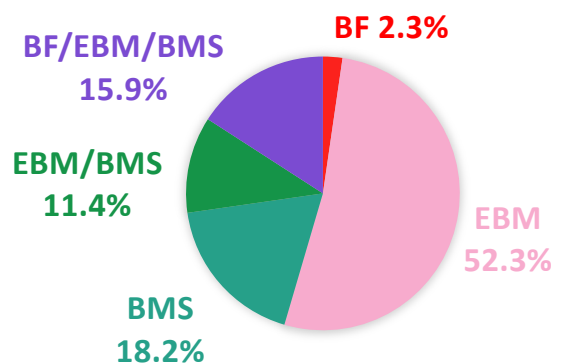


Figure 1: Mode of infant feeding at time of maternal discharge. BF = breastfeeding. EBM = expressed breast milk. BMS = breast milk substitute.

Table 1. Demographics and outcomes of study population. SD = standard deviation. IQR = interquartile range. IRSAD = Index of Relative Socioeconomic Advantage and Disadvantage. EBL = estimated blood loss.

		Exclusively BF/EBM		Not exclusively BF/EBM		P-value
Maternal age at delivery (years)	Mean (SD)	36.1	4.5	34.6	4.0	0.245
Gestational age at delivery (weeks)	Median (IQR)	33.1	4.1	35.7	1.7	0.002
Parity	Median (IQR)	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.3	0.072
IRSAD decile ranking	Mean (SD)	6.8	2.3	6.5	2.8	0.698
EBL at delivery (ml)	Mean (SD)	2166.7	1690.3	2935.0	1477.3	0.120
Postpartum length of stay (days)	Mean (SD)	7.0	3.0	6.9	3.6	0.887
Discharged together	n (%)	2	8.3	10	50.0	0.005

Discussion

Despite unique challenges experienced by women with PAS in the postpartum period, over 50% of mothers exclusively breastfed/breast milk fed their infants at discharge.