



Descriptive Analysis of Surgical Site Infections Following Caesarean Sections in a One- Year Period at Vila Central Hospital.

Mr Gilson Fangaria¹, Mr Graham Tasso¹, Mr Philip Agwaiasi¹, Dr Caroline Van Gemert²

¹Vila Central Hospital, Port Vila, Vanuatu. ²Burnet Institute, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Abstract text

Background: Surgical site infections (SSI's) following caesarean sections are significant concern in healthcare. SSIs are common in low- and middle-income countries, with an estimated one-in-ten people undergoing surgery developing an SSI resulting in morbidity, extended hospital stays, increased health-care costs, or mortality. This study aims to describe SSIs following caesarean section among patients at Vila Central Hospital (VCH) to enhance our understanding of SSI incidence and associated risk factors, allowing for more targeted prevention efforts and improved patient outcomes.

Methods: A retrospective descriptive method was used, involving analysis of patients records at VCH from August 2022 to August 2023. Data related to caesarean section cases were collected using SPC- standardized surveillance data tools . SSI is an infection that occurs in the area where surgical procedure was performed. Data collected included patient demographics, comorbidities occurrence of SSI, timing of SSI and details of antibiotic prophylaxis. Data was entered in an excel spread sheet and analysed. SSI incidence was calculated as the proportion of all caesarean section cases resulting in SSI.

Results: Among 270 caesarean sections in the study period, a total of 31 SSI were reported (SSI incidence rate of 11.5%). Among these cases, 65% were obese with 16% overweight. When compared to the first week after surgery, majority of SSI cases occurred after 8 days. On prophylaxis treatment, 95% cases comply to antibiotic treatment guideline and 5% not as per guideline.

Conclusion: This descriptive study provides a comprehensive profile of SSIs following Caesarean sections at VCH over one year period. The findings underscore the importance of targeted prevention efforts and enhanced patient care practices. Though it does not establish casual relationships, it served as a foundation for future research and quality improvement efforts.