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IMPLEMENTATION OF LABOUR CARE GUIDE: IMPROVING MATERNAL AND FETAL OUTCOMES





INTRODUCTION

The partograph, introduced by WHO during the Safe Motherhood Initiative, has been key in monitoring labour to prevent obstetrics complications. The modified WHO partograph (2000) excluded the latent phase for simplicity, while the WHO Labour Care Guide (LCG) (2020) integrates updated evidence on labour duration, intervention triggers, and respectful maternity care.

The LCG aims to:

- Optimize maternal and fetal outcomes.
- Provide standardized monitoring of labour progress.
- Highlight deviations and guide timely interventions.

OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the effectiveness of the Labour Care Guide (LCG) in improving maternal and fetal outcomes by comparing:

- Caesarean section rates.
- Maternal complications.
- Neonatal outcomes.

METHODOLOGY

Study Design: Retrospective comparative study.

Sample Size: 200 women (100 in the LCG group and 100 in the non-LCG group).

Data Collected:

Demographic characteristics: Age, parity, gestational age. **Labour and delivery characteristics:** Mode of delivery, labour duration, pain management.

Maternal outcomes: Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), complications.

Fetal outcomes: NICU admissions, Apgar scores.

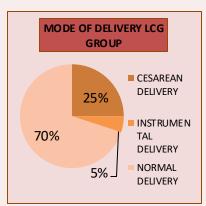
Statistical Analysis:

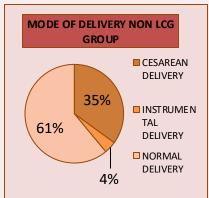
Continuous variables were compared using **Student's t-test**, expressed as means with standard deviations (SD).

Categorical variables were analyzed using Chi-square test or

Fisher's exact test as appropriate.

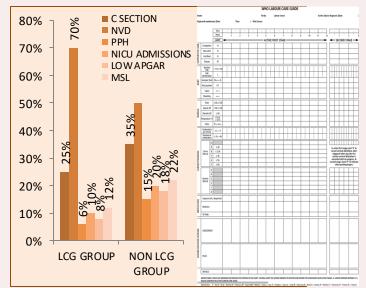
Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05.





Parameter	LCG Group (n=100)	Non-LCG Group (n=100)	p- value
Caesarean Section Rate	25%	35%	0.004
Normal Vaginal Delivery	70%	61%	0.006
PPH incidence	6%	15%	0.03
NICU admissions	10%	20%	0.04
Low APGAR score	8%	18%	0.02
MSL	12%	22%	0.03

RESULTS



DISCUSSION

- Our findings demonstrate the significant advantages of the Labour Care Guide (LCG) over traditional protocols, aligning with previous studies.
- In contrast, our study found significantly reduced Caesarean section rates (25% vs. 35%, p = 0.004) and PPH (6% vs. 15%, p = 0.03).
- Another study highlighted the LCG's role in improving personcentered care and timely interventions, consistent with our results of fewer NICU admissions (10% vs. 20%, p = 0.04)

CONCLUSION

The Labour Care Guide (LCG) significantly enhances labour management by improving maternal and fetal outcomes and results strongly support the adoption of LCG as a standardized labour care protocol in clinical settings.

REFERENCES

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3.Joshua P. et al. "Usability, acceptability, and feasibility of the WHO Labour Care Guide." Birth. 2021;48(1):66-75.