



Royal College of
Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists

UKOSS

UK Obstetric Surveillance System



NEWSLETTER 71 - July 2024

Fibrinogen study - results published!

Obstetric haemorrhage is an important cause of maternal mortality and morbidity in the UK. Fibrinogen plays a crucial part in the formation of a fibrin/platelet clot which will assist with arresting bleeding. Women with a plasma fibrinogen <2g/L and continuing bleeding represent a high-risk group that is associated with both progressive haemorrhage and the increased use of blood products and invasive procedures. The objectives of the study were to estimate the incidence of low fibrinogen in pregnancy and describe the management and perinatal outcomes following this.

Over a 12 month period, 124 women with fibrinogen <2g/L were identified (1.7 per 10,000 maternities; 95% confidence interval 1.4-2.0 per 10,000 maternities). 5% of cases were due to inherited dysfibrinogenemia or hypofibrinogenemia and 60% were due to postpartum haemorrhage caused by placental abruption, uterine atony or trauma. The highest estimated blood loss (median 4400ml) and lowest levels of fibrinogen were associated with amniotic fluid embolism and placental causes other than abruption (praevia, accreta, retention). There were two maternal deaths due to massive postpartum haemorrhage.

The study concluded that fibrinogen <2g/L is a rare condition which often, but not exclusively, affects women with postpartum haemorrhage and is associated with high maternal mortality.

A link to the publication is available on our website www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/ukoss/publications-ukoss/results.

Reference: Diguisto C, Baker E, Stanworth S, Collins PW, Collis RE, Knight M. Management and outcomes of women with low fibrinogen concentration during pregnancy or immediately postpartum: A UK national population- based cohort study. Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand. 2024;00:1-9. doi:10.1111/aogs/14828

Breast Cancer in pregnancy

The results of the breast cancer in pregnancy study have been published on **NIHR Open Research**. The paper, which is currently awaiting peer review, can be found at

www.openresearch.nihr.ac.uk/articles/4-40

Star Reporters

This newsletter we would like to thank **Sarah Prince, Colchester General Hospital**, for being the first to return a data collection form for TAC and **Louise de Luen, University Hospital of North Durham**, for getting reporting back on track.

Your edible goodies will be in the post very soon!



THIS MONTH

- Would you like to join the UKOSS Steering Committee?
- New study starting – Peripartum Hysterectomy



Hospital Monthly Reporting Rates over Six Months (December 2023 - May 2024)

6 months reported, 4 or 5 months reported, 2 or 3 months reported, 1 month reported, 0 months reported

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Aberdeen Maternity Hospital | Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital | Antrim Hospital |
| Altnagelvin Area Hospital | Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Gateshead) | Bronglais Hospital |
| Aneurin Bevan University Health Board | Queen Elizabeth Hospital (King's Lynn) | Caithness General Hospital |
| Arrowe Park Hospital | Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Woolwich) | Calderdale Royal Hospital |
| Ayrshire Maternity Unit | Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital | Cumberland Infirmary |
| Barnsley Hospital | Queen's Hospital (Burton-on-Trent) | Darlington Memorial Hospital |
| Basildon University Hospital | Queen's Medical Centre | Derriford Hospital |
| Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital | Royal Cornwall Hospital | Diana Princess of Wales Hospital |
| Bassetlaw District General Hospital | Rosie Maternity Hospital | East Surrey Hospital |
| Bedford Hospital | Rotherham District General Hospital | Furness General Hospital |
| Borders General Hospital | Royal Albert Edward Infirmary | Hereford County Hospital |
| Bradford Royal Infirmary | Royal Alexandra Hospital | Hinchingbrooke Hospital |
| Broomfield Hospital | Royal Berkshire Hospital | Ipswich Hospital |
| Chesterfield Royal Hospital | Royal Hampshire County Hospital | James Cook University Hospital |
| City Hospital (Birmingham) | Royal Jubilee Maternity Service | King's Mill Hospital |
| Colchester General Hospital | Royal Surrey County Hospital | Kingston Hospital |
| Conquest Hospital (East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust) | Royal United Hospital | Lancashire Women and Newborn Centre |
| Craigavon Area Hospital | Royal Victoria Infirmary | Liverpool Women's Hospital |
| Croydon University Hospital | Salisbury District Hospital | Musgrove Park Hospital |
| Daisy Hill Hospital | Scunthorpe General Hospital | Ninewells Hospital & Medical School |
| Darent Valley Hospital | Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health | Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital |
| Doncaster Royal Infirmary | Singleton Hospital | Northwick Park Hospital |
| Dorset County Hospital | Southend University Hospital | Pinderfields General Hospital |
| Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary | Southern General Hospital | Princess Royal Hospital (Telford) |
| Epsom General Hospital | South West Acute Hospital | Princess Royal Maternity Hospital |
| Forth Valley Royal Hospital | St Mary's Hospital (Isle of Wight) | Raigmore Hospital |
| George Eliot Hospital | St Mary's Hospital (London) | Royal Derby Hospital |
| Glan Clwyd District General Hospital | St George's Hospital | Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital |
| Glangwili General Hospital | St James's University Hospital | Royal Free Hospital |
| Gloucestershire Royal Hospital | St John's Hospital | Royal Jubilee Maternity Service |
| Good Hope Hospital | St Mary's Hospital (Manchester) | Royal Lancaster Infirmary |
| Harrogate District Hospital | St Michael's Hospital | Royal Sussex County Hospital |
| Heartlands Hospital | St Richard's Hospital | Russells Hall Hospital |
| Homerton University Hospital | Stoke Mandeville Hospital | St Peter's Hospital |
| Hull Royal Infirmary | Sunderland Royal Hospital | The Great Western Hospital |
| James Paget University Hospital | The Jessop Wing | University Hospital Lewisham |
| Jersey General Hospital | The Portland Hospital | West Suffolk Hospital |
| Kettering General Hospital | The Tunbridge Wells Hospital | Yeovil Women's Hospital |
| King's College Hospital | Torbay Hospital | Frimley Park Hospital |
| Lancashire Teaching Hospitals (Royal Preston Hospital) | Ulster Hospital | Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital |
| Leeds General Infirmary | University Hospital Coventry | John Radcliffe Hospital |
| Leighton Hospital | University Hospital of North Durham | Leicester General Hospital |
| Lincoln County Hospital | University Hospital of North Midlands | Leicester Royal Infirmary |
| Lister Hospital | University Hospital of North Tees | North Middlesex University Hospital |
| Manor Hospital (Walsall) | University Hospital of Wales | Princess Elizabeth Hospital (Guernsey) |
| Medway Maritime Hospital | Victoria Hospital (Blackpool) | Scarborough Hospital |
| Milton Keynes University Hospital | Victoria Hospital (Kirkcaldy) | Stepping Hill Hospital |
| New Cross Hospital | Warrington Hospital | Tameside General Hospital |
| Nobles Hospital (Isle of Man) | Warwick Hospital | The Hillingdon Hospital |
| Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital | Watford General Hospital | Whipps Cross University Trust Hospital |
| North Devon District Hospital | West Cumberland Hospital | Barnet Hospital (Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust) |
| North Manchester General Hospital | West Middlesex University Hospital | Chelsea & Westminster Hospital |
| Northampton General Hospital | Western Isles Hospital | Royal London Hospital |
| Nottingham City Hospital | Wexham Park Hospital | Royal Oldham Hospital |
| Peterborough City Hospital | Whiston Hospital | St Helier Hospital |
| Pilgrim Hospital | Whittington Hospital | Worcestershire Royal Hospital |
| Poole Hospital | William Harvey Hospital | Airedale General Hospital |
| Prince Charles Hospital | Wishaw General Hospital | Birmingham Women's Hospital |
| Princess Alexandra Hospital | Worthing Hospital | Countess of Chester Hospital |
| Princess Anne Hospital | Wrexham Maelor Hospital | Luton and Dunstable University Hospital |
| Princess Royal University Hospital | Wythenshawe Hospital | Newham General Hospital |
| Princess of Wales Hospital | York Hospital | Ormskirk District General Hospital |
| Queen Alexandra Hospital | Ysbyty Gwynedd District General Hospital | Princess Royal Hospital (Haywards Heath) |
| | | Queen's Hospital (Romford) |
| | | Royal Bolton Hospital |
| | | Southmead Hospital |
| | | University College Hospital |

New study starting – Peripartum Hysterectomy

UKOSS last studied peripartum hysterectomy in 2005-6 and the data contributed to an international study via INOSS (International Network of Obstetric Survey Systems).

There have been dramatic changes in clinical guidance and pathways since the previous study, however there have been no high-quality large scale observational studies in the UK since the previous UKOSS publication, therefore the impact of these changes on the incidence of hysterectomy and its complications are unknown.

This study will determine the national incidence of peripartum hysterectomy in the UK and identify the extent to which previous caesarean section is a risk factor in this population. This will enable appropriate future service planning, provide accurate information which can be used when counselling women about the risks associated with caesarean section, and provide a baseline incidence against which future trends can be monitored if caesarean delivery rates continue to rise nationally.

Surveillance period: 1st August 2024 – 31st July 2025

Case definition: Any woman undergoing surgical removal of the uterus during pregnancy or within 42 days of the end of pregnancy.

Controls: **Two** controls will be requested for every case reported. The controls will be the **two** women who delivered at the hospital immediately *before* the case.

Please note: All reporters will be emailed the short protocol and case definition, however please contact the team at ukoss@npeu.ox.ac.uk if you have any queries. The study details will also available on the website shortly.

RECOVERY and REMAP-CAP Trial study update

The team running the RECOVERY trial are starting a trial for low-dose dexamethasone comparison for patients with community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) which will also be open to pregnant and breastfeeding women. The RECOVERY trial study has therefore been extended to included women participating in this arm of the trial.

RECOVERY



The **REMAP-CAP** trial (Randomised, Embedded, Multi-factorial, Adaptive Platform Trial for Community-Acquired Pneumonia) is an international adaptive platform trial to evaluate multiple treatment options for patients who are critically ill due to community-acquired pneumonia. The REMAP-CAP trial has approval for a new low-dose dexamethasone comparison for patients with CAP without suspected SARS-COV-2 or flu (therefore probable bacterial infection) and this and other CAP comparisons are open to pregnant and breastfeeding women. The UKOSS study will be examining outcomes for pregnant women participating in this arm of the REMAP-CAP trial.

Updated Case Definition: Any woman admitted to hospital in pregnancy and participating in the RECOVERY or REMAP-CAP Trial.

Updated Study dates: 1st April 2022 – 30th June 2026.

Case Report Summary for Studies up until the end of June 2024

| Study | Actual number of reported cases | Data collection forms returned | Number of forms returned that were found to be not cases / reported in error | Data Collection forms returned that are confirmed cases | Expected Number of Confirmed Cases |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Amniotic Fluid Embolism | 411 | 390 | 82 | 308 | 233 |
| Biologic Agents in Pregnancy | 457 | 359 | 150 | 209 | 650 |
| Long-term non-invasive ventilation in pregnancy | 65 | 46 | 13 | 33 | 63 |
| Pregnancy in Women with Known Cardiomyopathy | 374 | 308 | 80 | 228 | 600 |
| Severe Respiratory infection – RECOVERY trial | 33 | 33 | 32 | 1 | 113 |
| Thrombotic Microangiopathy Associated Pregnancy Acute Kidney Injury | 42 | 32 | 12 | 20 | 478 |
| Transabdominal Cerclage | 23 | 16 | 11 | 5 | 18 |

INOSS



Dr Nicola Vousden, Clinical Fellow in Maternal and Child Population Health at the NPEU, recently travelled to Canada to attend the annual INOSS (International Network of Obstetric Survey Systems) face-to-face meeting. Here Nicola tells us more about INOSS and the trip...



What is INOSS and what is its relationship/involvement with UKOSS?

INOSS is an international group with representatives that co-ordinate Enhanced Obstetric Surveillance Systems (EOSS) across their region or country. It started as a collaboration between UKOSS and NethOSS (Netherlands) in 2010 and now there are representatives from over 15 countries including Belgium, Canada, France, Namibia, India, Italy, Sri Lanka, Norway and Ethiopia. Just like UKOSS, each of the countries or regions actively surveys serious, rare disorders in pregnancy and produce regular reports. Our most recent joint work has been in Covid-19 where we compared the data across 10 countries to understand the impact of different policies.

What was the purpose of the recent meeting in Canada?

We meet in person once a year to share learning and experiences across the countries. This year we met at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario in May. Much was discussed over the three days. We heard about the progress that newer groups have made in starting their surveys, and progress as many countries start collecting data for a joint study on perinatal hysterectomies. We talked about the challenges of co-ordinating, such as sharing data and getting grants, and ensuring our work reflects the priorities and experiences of both high and low-middle income countries.

What are the plans for the future of INOSS?

As a result of the meeting in Canada, and the expanding group, we are now developing 6 work streams to progress our joint ideas. Amongst others, these include answering: what are the methodological processes involved in starting and co-ordinating an EOSS? How can we better involve women and the public in our work? Can we facilitate easier international data sharing? Are there lessons we could helpfully share in external educational resources? What topics are priorities for future joint studies across countries?

Interested in joining the UKOSS Steering Committee?

There are currently two vacancies on the UKOSS Steering Committee for both a Welsh Representative and an ICU/Critical Care Representative.

The UKOSS Steering Committee is multi-disciplinary and meets three times a year. Its main responsibilities are to consider applications for new studies on the UKOSS programme and to monitor the progress of ongoing studies. Membership is not remunerated but meetings may be considered as part of continuing professional development.

Applications will be assessed on the basis of the following desirable criteria:

- Evidence of contribution to UKOSS at a local level: for example, co-ordinating UKOSS reporting at a local level, returning monthly reports and completing data collection forms.
- Evidence of forging links within and without one's own professional group and with wider multi-disciplinary teams.
- Evidence of interest in UKOSS: for example, proposing new topic areas, making study applications and/or using UKOSS data in presentations or publications.
- Research, audit and confidential enquiry or clinical governance experience in obstetrics/maternity care.
- Experience of committee works (local or national).

If you would like to apply, please submit a two page CV and a short covering letter stating why you would like to undertake the role to UKOSS at ukoss@npeu.ox.ac.uk.

The deadline for applications is **2nd September 2024**.

For an informal discussion, please contact Melanie O'Connor, UKOSS Programme Manager (melanie.oconnor@npeu.ox.ac.uk).

