AWARENESS AND EXPECTATIONS OF LABOR ANALGESIA
AMONG PARTURIENTS IN A TERTIARY CARE MATERNITY HOSPITAL IN QATAR

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BACKGROUND AND AIMS:

Epidural analgesia is the gold standard for pain relief during labor¹. Women’s Hospital is a tertiary care maternity unit in Qatar with 16-18,000 deliveries per year, providing a 24 hour epidural service, with an epidural rate of 45%.The main aim of this survey was to study the awareness² of, and, expectations from labor epidural analgesia amongst our multi-ethnic and multi-lingual population. This would help us to further improve our antenatal counselling services on labor analgesia³

METHOD:

With ethical committee approval, we conducted a questionnaire based survey among 100 patients in active labor, receiving labor epidural analgesia for the first time.

Medical Indication for epidural: -----
Cervical Dilatation: -----cm Induction/ augmentation: Y / N
Opioid: Y /N - If “yes” how many hours before epidural: ----- hrs
Entonox: Y /N

Who triggered epidural request: Pt ☐ Midwife ☐ Dr ☐

Was the patent aware of epidural service: Y / N

How did the patient know about epidural:

D r. ☐ Leaflets ☐ relative/friend ☐

Antenatal visits: PHC ☐ WH ☐ Sidra ☐ Private ☐

When did you decide to take epidural:

Antenatal ☐ Intrapartum ☐

Were other labor analgesia options give to Patient: Y/ N

Do you expect to be completely pain free: Y / N

In how much time you are expecting to be pain free:

< 5mins ☐ 10min ☐ 20min ☐

Mode of delivery:

NVD ☐ Instrumental ☐ LSCS ☐

Epidural to delivery time: ----- hrs

RESULTS:

Data gathered from a survey of 100 patients

Fig 1: Percentage of women who were aware of epidural services and those who knew alternate labor analgesic options.

Fig 2: The numbers to show who triggered the epidural request in LR

Fig 3: Patient's Sources of Knowledge

Fig4:Patients expectation of onset of labor analgesia

CONCLUSION:

Our survey showed that our patients had somewhat unreal expectations regarding

- Quality of analgesia
- Onset of analgesia.

Less than half the patients knew about alternate options of labor analgesia. We conclude that this deficiency can be dealt with by improvement of counselling in terms of

- Rate
- Timing
- Location

We cater to a multinational population with different backgrounds so patient education can be improved by using

- Multi-lingual leaflets
- Educational videos

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