Factors influencing variation in cesarean section rates among different hospitals in the Palestinian territories

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# OUTLINE

- Background
- Brief information about Palestine
- Palestinian Perineum and Birth Complications Study
- PAPER I-III
- Study IV
- Clinical implications



# BACKGROUND

- Caesarean section is one of the most common surgical procedures worldwide
- Since 2015, the WHO recommends caesarean section should be performed with an appropriate clinical indication only
- The global overall caesarean section rate increased from 12% to 21% between 2000 and 2015

#### Variations in caesarean section rates



- **Latin America** (40.5%)
- Asia (19.2%)

• North America (32.3%)

• Europe (25.0%)

• Africa (7.3%)

Hodin S, Harvard T.H.The Global Epidemic of Unnecessary Cesarean Sections (Part 2), 2017

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Hodin S, Harvard T.H.The Global Epidemic of Unnecessary Cesarean Sections (Part 2), 2017

# **Robson Ten Group Classification System**

Nulliparous with single cephalic pregnancy, ≥37 weeks gestation in spontaneous labour



All nulliparous women with a single breech pregnancy

Women classify into 10 groups according to

#### 1. Parity

(Nulliparity/multiparity/multiparity with previous caesarean section)

- 2. Number of fetuses (Single/multiple)
- 3. Presentation of the fetus (Cephalic/breech/transverse)
- 4. Onset of labour

(Spontaneous/induced/prelabour caesarean section)

5. Gestational age

(Term, >37wk or preterm, <37 wk)

WHO Statement on Caesarean Section Rates, 2017



Nulliparous with single cephalic pregnancy, ≥37 weeks gestation who either had labour induced or were delivered by caesarean section before labour



All multiparous women with a single breech pregnancy, including women with previous uterine scars



Multiparous without a previous uterine scar, with single cephalic pregnancy, ≥37 weeks gestation in spontaneous labour



All women with multiple pregnancies, including women with previous uterine scars



Multiparous without a previous uterine scar, with single cephalic pregnancy, ≥37 weeks gestation who either had labour induced or were delivered by caesarean section before labour



All women with a single pregnancy with a transverse or oblique lie, including women with previous uterine scars



All multiparous with at least one previous uterine scar, with single cephalic pregnancy, ≥37 weeks gestation

Previous caesarean section

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All women with a single cephalic pregnancy <37 weeks gestation, including women with previous scars



# **INFORMATION ABOUT PALESTINE**



# **INFORMATION ABOUT PALESTINE**



Gaza strip 2 millions live in 365 km<sup>2</sup>

### West Bank 3.5 million live in 5655 km<sup>2</sup>

Hadil Ali-Masri

# PALESTINIAN PERINEUM AND BIRTH COMPLICATIONS STUDY

- Prospective data collection
  - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017
  - Women (N= 75 000)
    - All women scheduled for vaginal deliveries were included
    - Pregnant ≥ 23 weeks or birthweight ≥ 500g

	Letrane Pot hane
	2. Patient ID number: Phone number 1: Phone number 2:     3. Hospital: A Helal Emirati D Queen Alia D PMC Rafidia Shifa Shada Al Agsa
	Arrival to hospital
	4. Date and time of arrival:
	Background information
	7. Juste of birth:       8. Marital status:       Married       Other       9. Marriage between       No         10. Education, total years at school and studying:       11. Place of residence:       Urban       Rural       Camp         12. Prepregnancy       13. Maternal weight:       14. Maternal       15. Smoking       No         10. Education, total years at school and studying:       14. Maternal       15. Smoking       No         12. Prepregnancy       13. Maternal weight:       14. Maternal       15. Smoking       No
	16. Number of previous vaginal     17. Number of children     19. Number of trimester     18. 2xd       0f these, how many forceps     18. Number of previous     18. Number of previous     19. Number of trimester
	21. Pre-existing medical conditions:  Hypertension  Diabetes  Anaemia  Hypothyroidium  Cost
	Z1. Last mentruation
	Uttrasound estimated date of birth;
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# PALESTINIAN PERINEUM AND BIRTH COMPLICATIONS STUDY



# **LIST OF PAPERS**



## **PAPER ONE**

# **BMJ Open** Differences in rates and odds for emergency caesarean section in six Palestinian hospitals: a populationbased birth cohort study

Mohammed Zimmo,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Katariina Laine,<sup>4,5</sup> Sahar Hassan,<sup>6</sup> Erik Fosse,<sup>2,3</sup> Marit Lieng,<sup>2,7</sup> Hadil Ali-Masri,<sup>2,3,8</sup> Kaled Zimmo,<sup>2,3,9</sup> Marit Anti,<sup>10</sup> Bettina Bottcher,<sup>11</sup> Ragnhild Sørum Falk,<sup>12</sup> Åse Vikanes<sup>3</sup>

*Zimmo M, Laine K, Hassan S, et al.* Differences in rates and odds for emergency caesarean section in six Palestinian hospitals: a population-based birth cohort study. *BMJ Open* 2018;8:e019509.

# **AIMS OF THE STUDY**

- To explore the prevalence and odds for emergency caesarean section
- To investigate the impact of sociodemographic and obstetric characteristics on differences in odds for emergency caesarean section between the study hospitals

# **METHODS**

Design	Prospective cohort study
Study hospitals	Three in Gaza and three in the West Bank
Study Population	32 321
Study period	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 until 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Main Outcome	Adjusted odds ratio for emergency caesarean section
Statistical methods	Logistic regression (OR, 95% CI)



# Prevalence of emergency caesarean section in the study hospitals



M. Zimmo 2019



# Prevalence of emergency caesarean section in the study hospitals



M. Zimmo 2019

# Odds Ratios and 95% Cls for emergency Caesarean Section among primiparous women

Hospitals	Crude OR (95% Cl)	Model 1 Adj. OR (95% Cl)	Model 2 Adj. OR (95% Cl)	Model 3 Adj. OR (95% Cl)
Hospital 1	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
Hospital 2	1.99 (1.45 to 2.72)	1.90 (1.34 to 2.70)	1.99 (1.44 to 2.75)	1.87 (1.30 to 2.68)
Hospital 3	2.40 (1.81 to 3.17)	2.40 (1.73 to 3.33)	2.43 (1.82 to 3.24	2.47 (1.77 to 3.46)
Hospital 4	1.95 (1.42 to 2.67)	2.33 (1.64 to 3.31)	1.58 (1.11 to 2.25)	1.84 (1.24 to 2.73)
Hospital 5	2.87 (2.11 to 3.91)	2.99 (2.12 to 4.22)	2.49 (1.77 to 3.50)	2.53 (1.74 to 3.70)
Hospital 6	4.75 (3.49 to 6.46)	4.28 (2.94 to 6.22)	4.11 (2.87 to 5.90	3.54 (2.29 to 5.47)

Model 1: Adjusted for sociodemographic characteristics

Model 2: Adjusted for obstetric characteristics

Model 3: Adjusted for sociodemographic and obstetric characteristics

# Odds Ratios and 95% CIs for emergency Caesarean Section among parous women

Hospitals	Crude OR (95% Cl)	Model 1 Adj. OR (95% CI)	Model 2 Adj. OR (95% CI)	Model 3 Adj. OR (95% Cl)
Hospital 1	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
Hospital 2	1.50 (1.23 to 1.83)	1.48 (1.19 to 1.84)	1.38 (1.12 to 1.70)	1.30 (1.04 to 1.63)
Hospital 3	1.75 (1.47 to 2.08)	1.80 (1.48 to 2.20)	1.50 (1.25 to 1.80)	1.53 (1.25 to 1.89)
Hospital 4	1.37 (1.13 to 1.67)	1.39 (1.12 to 1.72)	0.87 (0.70 to 1.09)	0.81 (0.64 to 1.04)
Hospital 5	2.56 (2.11 to 3.11)	2.61 (2.11 to 3.23)	1.89 (1.52 to 2.34)	1.70 (1.34 to 2.15)
Hospital 6	2.99 (2.44 to 3.65)	2.28 (1.78 to 2.93)	2.66 (2.12 to 3.34)	1.74 (1.32 to 2.31)

Model 1: Adjusted for sociodemographic characteristics

Model 2: Adjusted for obstetric characteristics

Model 3: Adjusted for sociodemographic and obstetric characteristics

# **CONCLUSION (PAPER I)**

Substantial differences in odds for emergency caesarean section between the study hospitals could not be fully explained by the studied sociodemographic or obstetric characteristics



### Exploring the impact of indication on differences in rates of emergency caesarean section in six Palestinian hospitals: a population based birth cohort study

Zimmo M, Laine K, Hassan S, Bottcher B, Fosse E, Ali-Masri H, Zimmo K, Falk RS, Lieng M, Vikanes A.

# AIMS OF THE STUDY

- To explore the differences in odds for emergency caesarean section between the study hospitals
- To investigate if potential differences can be explained by differences in indications

# **METHODS**

Design	Prospective cohort study
Study hospitals	Three in Gaza and three in the West Bank
Study Population	51 041
Study period	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 until 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
Main Outcome	<ul> <li>The inter-hospital variations in odds for emergency caesarean section</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>The most common indications for emergency caesarean section</li> </ul>
Statistical methods	Logistic regression (OR and 95% CI), Nagelkerke R square



#### **Prevalence Of Emergency Caesarean Section**



M. Zimmo 2019

#### **Prevalence Of Emergency Caesarean Section**



#### Indications For Emergency Caesarean Section Among Primiparous Women



#### Indications For Emergency Caesarean Section Among Parous Women



M. Zimmo 2019

# Odds Ratios and 95% Cls for emergency Caesarean Section among primiparous

Hospitals	Crude OR (95% Cl)	Model 1 Adj. OR (95% CI)	Model 2 Adj. OR (95% Cl)
Hospital 1	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
Hospital 2	0.64 (0.53 to 0.77)	0.60 (0.49 to 0.74)	1.12 (0.79 to 1.58)
Hospital 3	1.04 (0.89 to 1.22)	0.88 (0.74 to 1.04)	1.06 (0.77 to 1.45)
Hospital 4	0.83 (0.70 to 0.99)	0.84 (0.69 to 1.02)	0.42 (0.31 to 0.57)
Hospital 5	1.25 (1.07 to 1.46)	1.18 (0.99 to 1.41)	2.18 (1.61 to 2.96)
Hospital 6	2.19 (1.88 to 2.55)	1.88 (1.54 to 2.28)	2.41 (1.70 to 3.40)

Model 1: Adjusted for sociodemographic and obstetric characteristics

Model 2: Adjusted for sociodemographic and obstetric characteristics and emergency caesarean section indications

# Odds Ratios and 95% CIs for emergency Caesarean Section among parous women

Hospitals	Crude OR (95% Cl)	Model 1 Adj. OR (95% CI)	Model 2 Adj. OR (95% Cl)
Hospital 1	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
Hospital 2	0.74 (0.65 to 0.84)	0.73 (0.64 to 0.85)	1.94 (1.51 to 2.50)
Hospital 3	1.00 (0.89 to 1.13)	0.94 (0.83 to 1.06)	0.90 (0.70 to 1.16)
Hospital 4	0.81 (0.72 to 0.92)	0.78 (0.68 to 0.88)	0.50 (0.40 to 0.63)
Hospital 5	1.39 (1.23 to 1.56)	1.35 (1.19 to 1.53)	2.07 (1.61 to 2.67)
Hospital 6	2.01 (1.78 to 2.26)	1.80 (1.56 to 2.08)	1.77 (1.33 to 2.35)

Model 1: Adjusted for sociodemographic and obstetric characteristics

Model 2: Adjusted for sociodemographic and obstetric characteristics and emergency caesarean section indications



Indications explained the variation in emergency caesarean

section prevalence in 58.4% among primiparous, and in 66.4%

among parous women

# **CONCLUSION (PAPER II)**

- The differences in odds for emergency caesarean section among study hospitals could not be fully explained by differences in indications
- Main indications among primiparous
  - Fetal distress
  - Abnormal labor
- Main indications among parous
  - Previous caesarean section
  - Fetal distress
  - Abnormal labor
  - Breech presentation

# **PAPER THREE**

# Research **Open access BMJ Open** Caesarean section in Palestine using the **Robson Ten Group Classification** System: a population-based birth cohort study Mohammed Walid Zimmo,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Katariina Laine,<sup>4,5</sup> Sahar Hassan,<sup>6</sup> Bettina Bottcher,<sup>7</sup> Erik Fosse,<sup>2,3</sup> Hadil Ali-Masri,<sup>2,3,8</sup> Kaled Zimmo,<sup>2,3,9</sup> Ragnhild Sørum Falk,<sup>10</sup> Marit Lieng,<sup>2,11</sup> Åse Vikanes<sup>3</sup>

*Zimmo M, Laine K, Hassan S, et al.* Caesarean section in Palestine using the Robson Ten Group Classification System: a population-based birth cohort study. *BMJ Open* 2018;8:e022875.

# AIM OF THE STUDY

 To identify the main contributors to the overall CS rate by using the Robson Ten Group Classification System

# **METHODS**

Design	Prospective cohort study
Study hospitals	Three in Gaza
Study Population	18 908
Study period	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016 and 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
Main Outcome	The main contributions of each group in the Robson ten group classification system to the overall caesarean section rate
Statistical methods	Descriptive analysis, $\chi 2$ test and one-way
	ANOVA analysis



#### Contribution of each group within the Robson Ten Group Classification System to the overall caesarean section rate



Significant differences in caesarean section rates between study hospitals were

#### found in



# **CONCLUSION (PAPER III)**

The largest contributors to the overall caesarean section rate in the study hospitals were women in



 Significant variations in caesarean section rates between study hospitals were observed in



# **CONCLUSIONS OF THE THREE PAPERS**

- Major differences in rates, odds for emergency caesarean section could not be fully explained by differences in
  - Sociodemographic characteristics
  - Obstetric characteristics
  - Indications
- The largest contributors to the overall caesarean section rate in the study hospitals were Robson Groups 5, 8 and 10





#### Implementation of the WHO manual for Robson Ten Group Classification System at Al Shifa medical complex

# AIMS OF THE STUDY

 To identify the main contributors to the overall caesarean section rate using modified RTGCS in the main referral hospital

 To explore the absolute and relative indications for caesarean section within the modified RTGCS

# **STUDY FOUR**

Day .....

Date / / 2019

Department .....

#### Daily cesarean section reports

Name:	Age:		
Diagnosis (parity, gestational age, multiple/singleton, presentation)			
Number of previous CS:	Decision maker:		
Onset of labor:   Spontaneous  Induct	tion   Emergency CS  Elective CS		
Indication of CS:			
Neonatal outcome: 🗆 male 🗆 female	Weight: gram		
Residency place:	NICU admission :  Ves  No		

I started data collection for this study in 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

# Indications of Emergency Caesarean Section (n=824)



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# Indications of Elective Caesarean Section (n=406)



M. Zimmo 2019

### Contribution of modified RTGCS groups to the overall Caesarean section rate in Al Shifa medical complex (n=1230)





M. Zimmo 2019

According to the Palestinian obstetrics protocol, caesarean section rate distributed as the following :

# 37.3%

# Need caesarean section-absolute indication (TGCS 5b, 6 and 9)

According to the Palestinian obstetrics protocol, caesarean section rate distributed as the following :

# **42.1%**

### Borderline (TGCS 5a, 7, 8 and 10)

	Fetal distress + Abnormal labor	Relative indication	Post-term + PROM + macrocosmic + BOH	Absolute indication
Group 5a	23.9%	16.2%	38.3%	21.6%
Group 7	14.0%	2.0%	44.0%	40.0%
Group 8	3.1%	18.8%	25.0%	53.1%
Group 10	31.1%	0.9%	2.2%	57.7%

According to the Palestinian obstetrics protocol, caesarean section rate distributed as the following :

# **26.6%**

Primary caesarean section with cephalic presentation and full term (**TGCS 1-4**)

- **57.3%** due to fetal distress or abnormal labor
- **25.2%** due to absolute indications
- 3.4% due to relative indication

#### **Overall caesarean sections assessment**

- 1. 53.9% : Absolute indication
- 2. 12.7% : Post-term, PROM, macrocosmic and BOH
- **3.** 23.7% : Fetal distress or abnormal labor
- 4. **5.9%** : Relative indications

1. The national Palestinian obstetric guidelines should be applied equally in all Palestinian hospitals

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- 2. Continuous and ongoing evaluation of criteria used to set the indications for caesarean section

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- The efforts should be directed towards reducing primary caesarean section and increasing vaginal birth after caesarean section

- 1. The national Palestinian obstetric guidelines should be applied equally in all Palestinian hospitals
- 2. Continuous and ongoing evaluation of criteria used to set the indications for caesarean section
- 3. The efforts should be directed towards reducing primary caesarean section and increasing vaginal birth after caesarean section
- 4. Decision maker should be the most senior staff in primary caesarean section especially in fetal distress and abnormal labor



# Thank you





# STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE THESIS

	Strengths
	This study is the largest, prospective cohort study in Palestine
	It includes both Gaza and West Bank hospitals
	It was the first to explore caesarean section rates in Palestine using the Robson Ten Group Classification System
•	All women who gave birth in the study hospitals were included (paper III)

# STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS OF THE THESIS

Strengths	Limitations
<ul> <li>This study is the largest, prospective birth cohort study in Palestine</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Missing data on mode of deliveries, indications and medical disorders such as diabetes mellitus</li> </ul>
It includes both Gaza and West Bank	
hospitals	<ul> <li>There was inaccurate registration of maternal weight and place of</li> </ul>
It was the first to explore caesarean section rates in Palestine using the	residence in some hospitals
Robson Ten Group Classification System	<ul> <li>This study did not include private hospitals</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>All women who gave birth in the study hospitals were included (paper III)</li> </ul>	Paper 1 and 2 did not include elective caesarean section

Figure 1: Flow chart of the selected study population, multicenter study from Palestine



(**Paper II**) **Supplementary table 1:** Interaction terms between hospitals and BMI, fetal distress and breech presentation calculated by/estimated from logistic regression analysis for emergency caesarean section among parous women\*

	Interaction by hospital and BMI†	Interaction by hospital and fetal distress	Interaction by hospital and breech presentation
Hospital 1	Ref.	Ref.	Ref.
Hospital 2	0.89 (0.83-0.96)	0.25 (0.11-0.59)	3.46 (1.55-7.71)
Hospital 3	0.87 (0.81-0.94)	0.97 (0.47-2.01)	5.84 (2.65-12.89)
Hospital 4	0.95 (0.90-1.00)	0.88 (0-55-1.42)	2.34 (1.37-3.99)
Hospital 5	1.04 (0.98-1.10)	0.22 (0.12-0.41)	2.97 (1.18-7.45)
Hospital 6	1.03 (0.96-1.11)	0.37 (0.19-0.72)	9.05 (2.56-32.0)

\*BMI Body mass index

†Adjusted for sociodemographic (maternal age, education and pre-pregnancy body mass index) and obstetric characteristics (average number of children alive, history of previous caesarean section and in vitro fertilization treatment) and emergency caesarean section indications (Fetal distress, failure to progress, breech, previous caesarean section, hypertension disorder and others).

(**Paper III**) **Supplementary table 2** Contributions of each group in the Robson Ten Group Classification System to the overall caesarean section rates in the study hospitals (n=4337)

Robson Ten	All hospitals	Hospital 1	Hospital 2	Hospital 3
Group Classification	n (%)*	n (%)*	n (%)*	n (%)*
System				
1	324 (7.5)	113 (12.8)	62 (7.3)	149 (5.7)
2	314 (7.2)	46 (5.2)	51 (6.0)	217 (8.4)
3	239 (5.5)	57 (6.4)	73 (8.5)	109 (4.2)
4	236 (5.4)	23 (2.6)	58 (6.8)	155 (6.0)
5	1846 (42.6)	448 (50.7)	283 (33.1)	1115 (42.9)
6	206 (4.7)	38 (4.3)	23 (2.7)	145 (5.6)
7	312 (7.2)	69 (7.8)	79 (9.2)	164 (6.3)
8	501 (11.6)	45 (5.1)	132 (15.4)	324 (12.5)
9	8 (0.2)	4 (0.5)	2 (0.2)	2 (0.1)
10	351 (8.1)	41 (4.6)	92 (10.8)	218 (8.4)
Total	4337 (100)	884 (100)	855 (100)	2598 (100)

(Paper III) Supplementary table 1 Sociodemographic characteristics of the study population (N=18 908)

	Hospital 1	Hospital 2	Hospital 3	Total
	(N=4283)	(N=4069)	(N=10 556)	(N=18 908)
	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)
Maternal age				
≤20	1376 (32.1)	2230 (54.8)	2223 (21.1)	5829 (30.8)
21-30	1979 (46.2)	1338 (32.9)	6019 (57.0)	9336 (49.4)
31-40	859 (20.1)	471 (11.6)	2103 (19.9)	3433 (18.2)
>41	69 (1.6)	30 (0.7)	211 (2.0)	310 (1.6)
Education, (years)				
≤12	2513 (58.8)	3006 (73.9)	7080 (67.1)	12 612 (66.7)
13-16	1751 (40.9)	1017 (25.0)	2650 (25.1)	5418 (28.7)
≥17	14 (0.3)	44 (1.1)	820 (7.8)	878 (4.6)
Missing	5	2	6	13
Parity				
Primiparous	1117 (26.1)	1105 (27.2)	3620 (34.3)	5842 (30.9)
Multiparous	3166 (73.9)	2964 (72.8)	6936 (65.7)	13 066 (69.1)
Multiparous with previous vaginal delivery only	2521 (79.6)	2490 (84.0)	5072 (73.1)	10 083 (77.2)
Multiparous with previous one caesarean section	324 (10.2)	268 (9.0)	965 (13.9)	1557 (11.9)
Multiparous with two or more previous caesarean	321 (10.1)	206 (7.0)	899 (13.0)	1426 (10.9)
section				

#### Indications For Emergency Caesarean Section Among Primiparous Women



#### Indications For Emergency Caesarean Section Among Parous Women

