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Utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol and associated factors among anesthesia providers during elective and emergency cesarean section in Jimma University Medical Center

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UTILIZATION OF SAFE OBSTETRICS ANESTHESIA PROTOCOL AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG ANESTHESIA PROVIDERS DURING ELECTIVE AND EMERGENCY CESAREAN SECTION IN JUMC

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Abstract

Background: Anesthesia is one among the medical specialties which have sought to boost the standard of health care and patient safety by setting standards for safe practice in anesthesia that were adopted by the globe Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists (WFSA). A fundamental assumption is that, to scale back maternal mortality, there should be rapid access to effective emergency obstetric and anesthesia care. The wants for safe practice of obstetric anesthesia are as follows: Skills within the variety of adequately trained staff and academic resources, appropriate anesthesia monitors, disposables and medicines, relevant management protocols for every level of care, with supervision and audit. Gaps in utilization can arise from unavailability of resources and from an inability to use available resources which can arise from lack of expertise.

Objective: The purpose of the study was to assess the level of utilization of the safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol among anesthesia providers during elective and emergency cesarean section in Jimma university medical center.

Methods: An institution based cross-sectional study of anesthesia providers during elective and emergency cesarean section in Jimma university medical center, using a structured interviewer administered questionnaire, by trained anesthesia assistants. All anesthesia providers working at Jimma University medical center and fulfill the inclusion criteria were included in the study. Data entry was done using Epi data manager (Version 4.6.0.2). SPSS version 26 was used for analysis. Descriptive analysis was used to summarize the relationship between the independent variables and dependent variable. Chi-square test was used to test for the presence or absence of association

Results: Among 70 anesthesia service providers in the hospital, 60 participated. The response rate was 100%. Forty eight (80%) were within the age range of 25-35 years. 48(78.3%) were male. Regarding duration of experience and professional training, 30(50%) had experience of 2-5years and was residents. Four parameters were used to assess the level of utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol. Accordingly, 51(85%), 43(71.7%), 43(78.3%) and 28(46.7%) had good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol in availability of medications and intravenous fluids, conduct of anesthesia and Availability of monitoring device respectively. In

this study, the level of good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol was 41 (68.3%), 95% CI [68.2, 68.4]. Chi square test was employed and it showed strong statistical associations between good utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol and availability of facility and equipment (Pearson's X^2 =10.8, P-value=0.001), availability of medication and intravenous fluids (Pearson's X^2 =5.99, P-value=0.014), availability of monitoring device (Pearson's X^2 =4.66, P value=0.031) and conduct of anesthesia (Pearson's X^2 =16.6 P value=0.0001) respectively. However, there were no associations between utilization of good utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol and gender, age, level of experience or professional training.

Conclusion: The study revealed a higher good level of utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol. The factors associated with good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol were; availability of medication and IV fluid, Conduct of anesthesia, availability of monitoring device, facility and equipment.

Key words: Safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol, World Federation Society of Anesthesiologists, Level of utilization

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Contents

1.	List	st of abbreviations8				
2.	List	st of tables9				
3.	List	of figures1	0			
4.	List	of annexes1	1			
1.	Intr	oduction1	2			
1	1.	Background1	2			
1	2.	Statement of the problem1	3			
1	3.	Significance of the study1	5			
2.	Lite	rature review1	6			
2	2.1.	Availability of necessary equipment1	6			
2	2.2.	Inadequate number of anesthesia providers1	6			
2	.3.	Availability of necessary medications1	7			
2	2.4.	Knowledge gap among anesthesia providers1	7			
2	.5.	The WHO surgical safety check list1	8			
2	.6.	Preanesthetic evaluation and identification of high risk mothers1	9			
2	.7.	Conceptual frame work	0			
3.	Obj	ective of the study2	1			
3	8.1.	General objective	1			
3	8.2.	Specific objective	1			
4.	Ma	terials and methods2	2			
4	.1.	Study setting	2			
4	.2.	Study design2	2			
4	.3.	Population2	2			
	Sou	rce population2	2			
	Stu	dy population:	2			
4	.4.	Inclusion and exclusion criteria2	2			
4	.4.1.	Inclusion criteria2	2			
4	.4.2.	Exclusion criteria2	3			
4	.5.	Sample size determination and sampling technique2	3			
4	.5.1.	Sample size calculation	3			
4	.6.	Variables	3			

	4.7.	Data collection tool and procedure	24
	4.9.	Data processing and analysis	25
	4.10.	Operational definitions	25
	4.11.	Ethical considerations	26
	4.12.	Dissemination plan	26
5.	Res	ults	27
	5.1.	Socio-demographic and Educational characteristics of respondents	27
	5.2.	Parameters to assess level of utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol	27
	5.2.1.	Aggregate level of Utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol	28
	5.3.	Associated factors	29
	5.3.1.	Association between Utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol and professional aspect 29	ts
	5.3.1.	1. Gender and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol	29
	5.3.1.	2. Age and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol	29
	5.3.1.	3. Duration of experience and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol	30
	5.3.1.	4. Professional training and utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol	30
		Association between Utilization of Safe Obstetric Anesthesia Protocol and Individual neters	31
	5.3.2.	1. Availability of facility and equipment with Utilization of Safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol	31
	5.3.2 proto	2. Availability of medications and intravenous fluids with utilization of safe obstetrics anesthes col 31	ia
	5.3.2.	3. Availability of monitoring device with utilization of Safe obstetric anesthesia protocol	31
	5.3.2.	4. Conduct of anesthesia with utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol	32
6.	Dise	cussion	33
	6.1.	Strengths and Limitations	34
	6.1.1.	Strengths	34
	6.1.2.	Limitations	34
7.	Cor	nclusion and recommendation	35
	7.1.	Conclusion	35
	7.2.	Recommendations	35
8.	Ref	erences	36
9.	Anr	nexes	38

Annex 1 Information sheet & consent form	38
Annex 2 Questionnaire	41

1. List of abbreviations

- CS -Cesarean section
- JUMC –Jimma University Medical center
- LB Live birth
- LMICs low-and middle-income countries
- MDG -Millennium Development Goals
- MMR maternal mortality ratio
- **OBS** -Obstetrics
- **OR** -Operation Room
- PAP- physician anesthesia provider
- PI -Primary Investigator
- WFSA -World Federation Society of Anesthesiology
- WHO -World Health Organization

2. List of tables

Table 1: Variables

Table 2: Socio-demographic and Educational characteristics of respondents

Table 3 Gender and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Table 4 Age and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Table 5 Duration of experience and safe utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Table 6 Professional training and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Table 7 Availability of facility and equipment with utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Table 8 Availability of medications and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Table 9 Availability of monitoring device and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Table 10 Conduct of anesthesia with utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

3. List of figures

Figure 1: Conceptual framework

Figure 2.Level of Utilization of Safe obstetric Anesthesia Protocol using the four assessing parameters among anesthesia providers during elective and emergency cesarean section in Jimma University Medical center 2021.

Figure 3 Aggregate Level of Utilization of Safe obstetric Anesthesia Protocol among anesthesia providers during elective and emergency cesarean section in Jimma University Medical center from 2021.

4. List of annexes

Annex 1 Information sheet & consent form

Annex 2 Questionnaire

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The international standards for a safe practice of Anesthesia were developed by the world federation societies of anesthesiologists (WFSA) and the world health organization (WHO). They include a set of suggested, recommended and highly recommended standards. The standards are regarding professional aspects, facilities and equipment, medications and intravenous fluids, monitoring and conduct of anesthesia. The highly recommended standards, the equivalent of mandatory standards, should be met in order to provide general or regional anesthesia for surgical procedures.[1]

Cesarean section is an emergency obstetric care that is designed to reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality.[2] Problems that are no longer seen in developed countries still complicate the obstetric practice, including cesarean section in developing countries. It comes with special difficulties to the anesthesia providers in developing countries. Physiologic changes of pregnancy added to the emergency situations of patients along with obstetric complications call for trained anesthetists, which are few in number and unevenly distributed. Therefore it is more difficult to perform the surgery in developing countries.[3]

Obstetricians and obstetric anesthesia providers should work closely, especially in low resource settings to ensure the safety and wellbeing of mothers. The rapid access to effective emergency obstetric and anesthesia care is a must to decrease maternal mortality. The presence of adequately trained staff with access to educational resources, availability of necessary drugs and equipment and relevant management protocols with supervision and audit are the requirements for the safe practice of obstetric anesthesia.[4]

1.2. Statement of the problem

Approximately 295,000 women died during pregnancy and childbirth in 2017, making the maternal mortality unacceptably high. Majority of them (94%) occurred in low resource settings and could have been prevented. Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia accounted for approximately 86% (254 000) of the estimated global maternal deaths in 2017. Sub-Saharan Africa alone accounted for roughly two-thirds (196 000) of maternal deaths, while Southern Asia accounted for nearly one-fifth (58 000). [5]

An operative delivery rate of 5 to 10% is recommended by the WHO. However these rates are below 1% for the population mostly located in sub Saharan Africa consisting of the poorest population in 20 countries. This is often to some extent due to a scarcity of anesthesia provision, particularly in rural areas. [6]

According to an article examining anesthesia related mortality in Michigan, USA over an 18 year period, anesthesia-related maternal mortality is a remarkable success story and illustrates how a problem can be targeted and significantly reduced through scientific study followed by recommendations that alter practice patterns. Deaths before 1984 were due to local anesthetics toxicity and they were reduced by using test doses and diluted local anesthetics. Although anesthesia-related maternal mortality was reduced, it was not eliminated. An examination of deaths after 1984 revealed that they now occurred primarily during operative delivery and were most often associated with general anesthesia. Reducing the incidence of aspiration or failed intubation by either avoiding general anesthesia or standardizing airway management became the focus of attention. The effect of these interventions remains to be seen. Currently maternal deaths occur during emergence and recovery related to either airway obstruction or hypoventilation. Risk factors were weight (obesity) and an African American race. Another is advancing maternal age (>35).[7]

A study on the association between mode of anaesthesia and severe maternal morbidity during admission for scheduled Caesarean delivery: a nationwide population-based study in Japan, 2010 to 2013 states recently, severe maternal morbidity has gained interest as an important quality indicator of obstetric care because maternal mortality remains extremely low in developed countries. In the present study, we adopted combined criteria (disease- specific and management-based) to identify severe maternal morbidity. Severe maternal morbidity was

defined as the occurrence of at least one life-threatening complication. The incidence of severe maternal morbidity was higher among those receiving general anaesthesia compared with those receiving neuraxial anaesthesia. General anaesthesia was mainly associated with hemorrhagic complications[8]

The existence of co-morbidities during pregnancy can pose various challenges to the attending anesthesiologists during operative deliveries or during the provision of labor analgesia services. The presence of cardiac diseases, endocrinological disorders, respiratory diseases, renal pathologies, hepatic dysfunction, anemia, neurological and musculoskeletal disorders, connective tissue diseases and many others not only influence the obstetric outcome, but can significantly impact the anesthetic technique[9]

The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths (CEMD) in South Africa, initiated in 1998, currently constitutes the best evidence for anesthesia-related mortality in a low-resource environment. It examined anesthesia related maternal deaths during three trienniums. From 1999 to 2001 there were 56 anesthesia related deaths (31, general anesthesia and 25, spinal anesthesia). From 2002 to 2004, there were 62 anesthesia related deaths and anesthesia was deemed the 7th most common direct explanation of maternal mortality. And finally from 2003 to 2007, there were 74 anesthesia related maternal deaths and anesthesia was the cause for 6% of all preventable maternal deaths.[10]

In 93% of perioperative deaths, there were avoidable factors according to a study in done in Togo, West Africa that attempts to determine the anesthetic death rate, the causes of death and the avoidable mortality rate. It should be possible to reduce the mortality by developing preventive measures, promoting the training of anaesthetists in developing countries and encouraging the use of regional anaesthesia, especially in obstetrics. It is also necessary to promote continuing education for nurse anaesthetists.[11]

According to UN estimates, Ethiopia has to this point reduced maternal mortality by 69% from the 1990s estimate with annual reduction rate of fifty or more. In step with the most recent UN estimate, the proportion of mothers dying per 100,000 live births has declined from 1400 in 1990 to 420 in 2013. However, EDHS 2005 and 2011 reported maternal mortality of 673 and 676 per 100,000 live births respectively, indicating no change between the 2 surveys. Another report from Lancet (2014) estimated that maternal mortality in Ethiopia was 497 in

2013. As part of the Health Sector Transformation Plan (HSTP), Ethiopia aspires to cut back Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) from 420 to 199 per 100,000 live births[12]

A hospital based cross sectional study, at Tikur anbesa specialized hospital in 2019, was done to assess the utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol according to the WFSA and WHO guidelines. It showed significant shortages of continuous education, equipment and medications needed to provider safe obstetric anesthesia care. The shortages have greatly impacted the safe anesthesia practice and compliance with international standards.[13]

1.3. Significance of the study

As stated above, anesthesia contributes to maternal morbidity and mortality. The safe utilization of anesthesia is therefore an important factor in the practice of obstetric anesthesia. This study, by exploring the current condition regarding the utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol in JUMC, aims to identify any gaps in the application of the protocol.

By identifying the gaps, the study provides answers on factors that need to be corrected to both the major departments involved and to the hospital administration. It also serves as a stepping stone for further research on improvement of the identified factors. The end result will be a better outcome for mothers who come for cesarean section to the hospital.

2. Literature review

2.1. Availability of necessary equipment

A cross-sectional survey was done at 5 main referral hospitals in East Africa: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. Employing a questionnaire supported the World Federation of the Societies of Anesthesiologists (WFSA) international guidelines for safe anesthesia, anesthetists where interviewed in these hospitals. None of respondents had all the needed necessities available to produce safe obstetric anesthesia, and only 7% conveyed satisfactory anesthesia staffing. Availability of monitors was limited, and the ones that were available were often nonfunctional. The scarcity of local protocols, and absence of ICU services, also added significantly to poor maternal outcomes. [1]

In a similar cross-sectional survey lead at 64 government and private hospitals in Uganda, by means of pre-set questionnaires to the anesthetists and hospital directors. Access to the minimum requirements for safe obstetric anesthesia in step with WFSA guidelines were also checked employing a checklist for operating and recovery rooms. The response rate was 100% following personal interviews of anesthetists, and hospital directors. Only 3 of the 64 (5%) of the hospitals had all necessities available to fulfill the WFSA International guidelines for safe anesthesia. It was noted that several of the anesthesia machines present were obsolete models without functional safety alarms and/or mechanical ventilators. Continuous ECG was only available in 3/64 (5%) of hospitals. [6].

There have been deficiencies within the availability of essential equipment and basic intraoperative monitors, like end-tidal CO2 detectors (17% availability across all hospitals). Postoperative care and access to resuscitative equipment, like defibrillators, were also lacking. [8]

2.2. Inadequate number of anesthesia providers

For the inhabitants of 142.9 million within the East African community, there have been only 237 anesthesiologists, with a staff density of 0.08 in Uganda, 0.39 in Kenya, 0.05 in Tanzania, 0.13 in Rwanda, and 0.02 anesthesiologists in Burundi per 100,000 populations in each country. [1] In the cross sectional study from Uganda, in addition to lack of equipment, 54/64 (84%) didn't have a trained physician anesthetist and 5/64 (8%) had no trained providers for anesthesia in the slightest degree. [6]

In another cross-sectional survey of all Guatemalan public hospitals providing surgical care, with the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists (WFSA) anesthesia facility assessment tool (AFAT) questionnaire, was done. Of the 46 public hospitals in Guatemala in 2018, 36 (78%) were found to supply surgical care, including 20 district, 14 regional, and a pair of national referral hospitals. The survey identified 573 full-time physician surgeons, anesthesiologists, and obstetricians (SAO) within the public sector, with an estimated SAO density of 3.3/100,000 population. There have been 300 full-time anesthesia providers employed at public hospitals. 47% of those providers consisted of Physician anesthesiologists, with an estimated physician anesthesiologist density of 0.8/100,000 population. Only 10% of district hospitals stated having an anesthesia provider constantly present intraoperatively throughout general or neuraxial anesthesia cases[14]

2.3. Availability of necessary medications

Frequent shortages of medication were reported for regional/neuraxial anesthesia, and other essential drugs were often lacking like antacids and antihypertensive [6]

No hospitals reported assessing pain within the immediate postoperative period. While the provision of some medications like benzodiazepines and local anesthetic was vigorous (100% availability across all hospitals), only some of the hospitals had essential medications like ketamine, epinephrine, or atropine. [14]

2.4. Knowledge gap among anesthesia providers

A task analysis study in Ethiopian anesthetists reported, among the whole study participants, over half rated 72.9% of the tasks as being highly critical to patient outcomes, and stated that they carried out 70.2% of all tasks at a high frequency, More than a quarter of respondents reported that they performed 15 of the tasks at a small frequency. Nine of the tasks rated as being highly critical weren't learned during pre-service education by over one-quarter of study participants, and over 10% of respondents reported that they were unable to perform five of the highly critical tasks [15]

A cross-sectional survey was conducted in Amhara region of Ethiopia from 15/12/2019 to 30/1/2020. All 81 hospitals of the region were stratified by their level as district, general, and referral hospital. Seventy eight (88.6%) anesthesia providers working in 62 hospitals responded to the survey. On aggregate, 36 (58%) hospitals from the total 62 hospitals have met the minimum expected safe anesthesia requirements. Anesthesia safety in Ethiopia appears challenged by substandard continuous medical education and continuous professional development practice, and limited availability of some essential equipment and medications.[16]

A questionnaire, first used in Uganda in 2006, to survey practicing anaesthetists regarding the current state of anaesthesia services across Ethiopia, was reproduced. The results indicate that a large proportion of centers remain unable to provide safe general, spinal, pediatric and obstetric anaesthesia, at all levels of hospital and across almost all of the country's regions. In addition to a lack of equipment and pharmaceuticals, anaesthetists report problems with professional recognition and a lack of access to continuing professional development as key barriers to service development.[17]

A cross-sectional survey of health facilities of the Health Antenna of Butembo in Democratic Republic of Congo was conducted from October to December 2018. Questionnaires were brought to anesthesia providers in the health facilities. The study included answers from the anesthesia practitioners who accepted to participate. The practices of standard monitoring in the health facilities were compared to WHO-WSFA guidelines. Forty out of 90 health facilities (44.4%) of 10 health zones responded on the questionnaire. All the health facilities were providing general anesthesia whereas spinal anesthesia was provided in 22 out of 40 centers (55%). Seventy percent (28/40) of the facilities were below standard according to WHO-WSFA guidelines. Only 40% (16/40) were using a pulse oximeter and 10% (4/40) declared that ECG was occasionally used.[18]

2.5. The WHO surgical safety check list

A cross-sectional survey was conducted at the main referral hospitals in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. Using a pre-set questionnaire, anaesthetists were interviewed on their knowledge and attitudes towards use of the WHO surgical checklist. Of the 85 anaesthetists interviewed, only 25 % regularly used the WHO surgical checklist. None of the anaesthetists in

Uganda or Burundi used the checklist, mainly because it was not available, in contrast with Tanzania, Kenya, and Rwanda, where 65%, 19% and 36%, respectively, used the checklist[19]

A prospective observational study was conducted among 282 patients undergoing elective and emergency surgery in Gondar, Ethiopia. Compliance and completeness rate with implementation of Sign-in, Time-out, and Sign-out domains was computed with SPSS 20 package. The overall compliance and completeness rate were 39.7 and 63.4 % respectively. The main reasons cited for non-user were lack of previous training (45.1 %) and lack of cooperation among surgical team members. The completeness rate was satisfactory but the overall compliance rate was suboptimal. Supplementary training and attention to actual checklist use would be indicated to ensure that this valuable tool could be used more routinely and improve communication. [20]

2.6. Preanesthetic evaluation and identification of high risk mothers

Careful and early identification of these high risk patients can lead to timely investigations, referrals and medical management while anticipating and preventing worsening of the pre-existing condition and forming an appropriate delivery plan. Obstetric pre-assessment clinics with joint anesthetic input are a useful way to achieve early identification and appropriate management of the high-risk pregnant woman. Recognition and early referral for an anesthetic opinion can save lives in a variety of medical conditions. These include the appropriate recognition of the potentially difficult airway, optimization of treatment plan in patients with cardiorespiratory, thrombo-embolic and neurological disease.[21]

2.7. Conceptual frame work

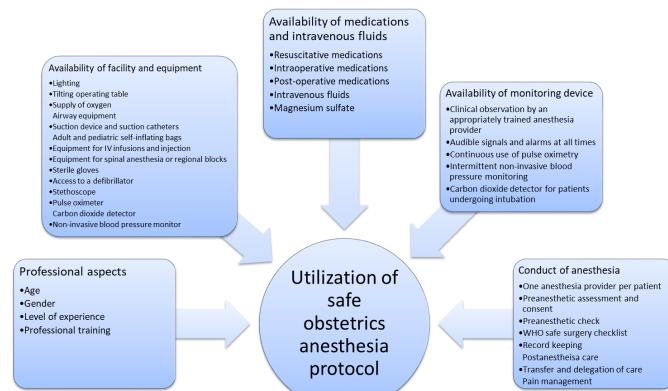


Figure 1 Sources: [1],[21],[19],[15]

3. Objective of the study

3.1. General objective

3.1.1.To assess the level of utilization of the safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol among anesthesia providers during elective and emergency cesarean section in JUMC in terms of magnitude (high or low) and associated factors in order to identify any gaps in the utilization and to suggest corrective strategies,2021

3.2. Specific objective

- 3.2.1. To assess the level of utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol
- 3.2.2. To assess factors associated with utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol among anesthesia providers during elective and emergency cesarean section in Jimma University Medical center.

4. Materials and methods

4.1. Study setting

The study is going to be conducted in Ethiopia, Oromia regional state, Jimma town at Jimma university medical center located 352 km southwest of the capital Addis Ababa. It is inaugurated as a new Medical center on December 08, 2018 as the only teaching and referral hospital in the southwestern part of the country. It is delivering services for almost 15000 inpatient, 160,000 outpatient attendants, 11000 emergency cases and 4500 deliveries in a year coming to the hospital from the catchment population. Jimma zone has a total population of 2,486,155 according to the 2007 census of which 1,250,527 are male and 1,235,628 are females. It has 1600 staff members and 800 beds.

The hospital has two OR tables designated to emergency and elective obstetric cases. There are 5 consultant anesthesiologists, 30 anesthesiology residents, 35 MSC anesthetists, MSC anesthesia students and BSC anesthetists, a total of 70 anesthesia providers working on rotation at the obstetrics OR. There are also 10 trained anesthetic assistants.

4.2. Study design

An institution based cross sectional study

4.3. Population

Source population:

All anesthesia providers who fulfill the inclusion criteria

Study population:

All anesthesia providers giving anesthesia to mothers presenting for elective and emergency cesarean section in JUMC during the study period

4.4. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

4.4.1.Inclusion criteria

• Anesthesia providers who have minimum 6 months working experience to ensure the provider had his/her rotation working at the obstetrics operation theatre.

4.4.2. Exclusion criteria

- Anesthesia providers who don't fulfill the inclusion criteria or unavailable during the study period.
- 4.5. Sample size determination and sampling technique
- 4.5.1. Sample size calculation
 - All anesthesia providers who fulfill the inclusion criteria were included in the study.
- 4.6. Variables

Table 1: Variables

Independent variable	Dependent variable
Professional aspects	Level of utilization of safe obstetrics
Year of experience	anesthesia protocol
Professional background	
Age	
Sex	
Professional training	
Availability of medications and IV fluids	
Resuscitative medications	
Intraoperative medications	
Post-operative medications	
Intravenous fluids	
Magnesium sulfate	
Availability of monitoring device	
Intraoperative	
 Clinical observation by an appropriately trained 	
anesthesia provider	
 Audible signals and alarms at all times 	
 Continuous use of pulse oximetry 	
 Intermittent non-invasive blood pressure monitoring 	
 Carbon dioxide detector for patients undergoing 	
intubation	
Postoperative	
 Clinical observation: 	
 Continuous use of pulse oximetry 	
 Intermittent non-invasive blood pressure monitoring 	
 Assessment of pain score using age appropriate 	
scale	

Availability of Facility and equipment

Lighting Tilting operating table Supply of oxygen Airway equipment Suction device and suction catheters Adult and pediatric self-inflating bags Equipment for IV infusions and injection Equipment for spinal anesthesia or regional blocks Sterile gloves Access to a defibrillator Stethoscope Pulse oximeter Carbon dioxide detector Non-invasive blood pressure monitor **Conduct of anesthesia** One anesthesia provider per patient Preanesthetic assessment and consent Preanesthetic check WHO safe surgery checklist Record keeping Postanestheisa care Transfer and delegation of care Pain management

4.7. Data collection tool and procedure

A structured interviewer administered questionnaire[1] was used. The questionnaire contains questions on facility and equipment, medication and intravenous fluids, monitoring and conduct of anesthesia. It was collected by anesthetic assistants after being trained by the primary investigator. English was used for data collection. The place for data collection was at the obstetrics operation room of JUMC. The primary investigator supervised the data collection.

4.8. Data quality control

To maintain the quality of data pretest was conducted using 5% of the sample size to know whether the questions are clearly understandable or not two weeks before moving to study. During data collection principal investigator gave onsite technical support and close supervision. The data was collected using English language primarily and using Amharic and Afaan Oromo for clarification if needed. Data was checked daily for completeness, consistency and then errors were corrected accordingly before data processing and analysis.

4.9. Data processing and analysis

After data collection and checking of the content was done, the data obtained was edited, coded, entered, and cleaned by Epi data software by the principal investigator. Then it was exported to Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS 26.0) for analysis. Descriptive analysis was used to summarize the relationship between each independent variable and its corresponding dependent/outcome variable. Chi-square test was used presence or absence of association.

4.10. Operational definitions

- Anesthesia provider: Any healthcare worker who provides anesthesia care, irrespective of professional background or moderate or deep training
- Anesthesia :Refers to the administration of general or regional anesthesia or moderate or deep sedation independent of who provides the care
- Anesthesiologist: A graduate of a medical school who has completed a nationally recognized specialist anesthesia training program
- Nurse anesthetist: A graduate of a nursing school who has completed a nationally recognized nurse anesthetist training program
- Non-specialist physician anesthetist : A graduate of a medical school who has not completed a specialist training program in anesthesia but has undergone some anesthesia training
- Anesthesia Assistant (AA): is a specially trained, health professional who participates in the care of the stable surgical patient during general, regional, or conscious sedation anesthesia through medical directives under the supervision of the anesthesiologist.
- Highly recommended standards: the minimum expected standards. They are the functional equivalent of mandatory standards. If they are not met, provision of anesthesia for elective surgical procedures is unsafe and unacceptable
- Good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol: The variables were prepared in a table format using yes/no. Fulfilling 100% of the listed variables, as indicated by the yes answer, was

taken as good utilization of the protocol since these components are highly recommended for any level of health care facility.[1]

4.11. Ethical considerations

Prior to the start of the research, the principal investigator obtained ethical approval from the institutional ethical review board of Institute of health, Jimma University. Then a formal letter was sent to the management of the hospital for cooperation. The purpose of the data collection, the nature of the study and all the necessary information about the study was explained and a formal written consent was obtained from the anesthesia providers who participated in the study. All data obtained in the course of the study was kept confidentially and used solely for the purpose of the research. The name of respondents or study participants was never used by any means throughout the research and participants were told they had the right to withdraw themselves from study anytime they want.

4.12. Dissemination plan

The research was presented for partial fulfillment of specialty certificate in anesthesiology, critical care and pain medicine. The Soft copy and hard copy of finding of this research is disseminated to the department of anesthesiology and for selected department of the hospital. Finally the result of the study was disseminated to the scientific community through seminars, workshops, and conferences of health professionals association and publications in peer-reviewed scientific journal

- 5. Results
- 5.1. Socio-demographic and Educational characteristics of respondents

Among 70 anesthesia service providers in the hospital, 60 participated. The response rate was 100%. Forty eight (80%) were within the age range of 25-35 years. While, 48(78.3%) were male. Regarding duration of experience and professional training, 30(50%) had experience of 2-5years and were residents. (See Table 2 below)

Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	20-24	6	10%
-	25-35	48	80%
	36-45	3	5%
	>46	3	5%
Gender	Male	47	78.3%
	Female	13	21.7%
Professional training	Resident	30	50.0%
	BSc anesthetist	18	30.0%
	MSc anesthetist	2	3.3%
	MSc student	6	10.0%
	Consultant Anesthesiologist	5	6.7%
Duration of experience	6 months to 2 years	27	45.0
	2 years to 5 years	30	50.0
	More than 5 years	3	5.0

Table 2: Socio-demographic and Educational characteristics of respondents

5.2. Parameters to assess level of utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Four parameters, which are availability of medications and intravenous fluids, availability of monitoring device, facility and equipment and conduct of anesthesia were used to assess the level of utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol. Accordingly 51(85%), 43(71.7%), 43(78.3%) and 28(46.7%) had good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol in availability of medications and intravenous fluids, conduct of anesthesia and Availability of monitoring device respectively. (See the figure given below).

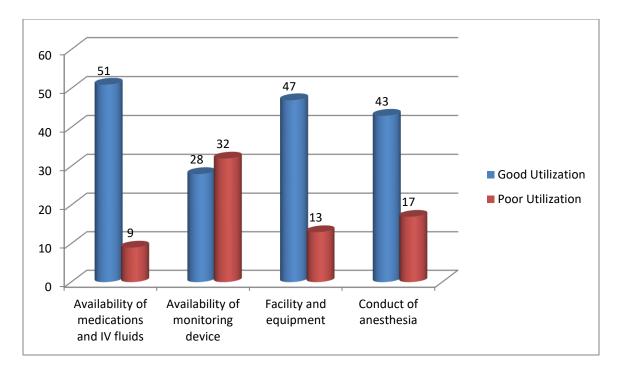


Figure 2.Level of Utilization of Safe obstetric Anesthesia Protocol using the four assessing parameters among anesthesia providers during elective and emergency cesarean section in Jimma University Medical center 2021.

5.2.1. Aggregate level of Utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

In this study, the level of good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol was 41 (68.3%), 95% CI [68.2, 68.4]. (See figure given below).

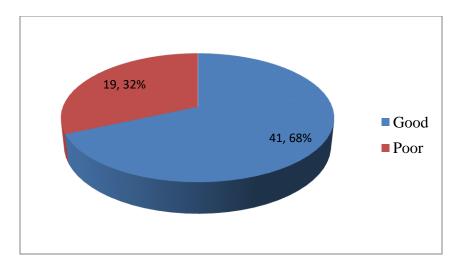


Figure 3 Aggregate Level of Utilization of Safe obstetric Anesthesia Protocol among anesthesia providers during elective and emergency cesarean section in Jimma University Medical center from 2021.

5.3. Associated factors

- 5.3.1. Association between Utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol and professional aspects
 - 5.3.1.1. Gender and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

A chi square test was employed to assess the presence/absence of association between gender and good utilization and it revealed no association (P-value=0.347)

Table 3 Gender and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

	Aggregate safe anaesthesia category	
	Poor utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol	Good utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol
Gender:		
Male	16	31
Female	3	10

5.3.1.2. Age and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Fisher exact chi square test was employed and revealed no association betweenn age and good Utilization of Safe Obstetric Anaesthesia Protocol (P-value=0.337)

Table 4 Age and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

	Aggregate safe anaesthesia	
	Poor utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol	Good utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol
Age		
25-35	16	32
36-45	0	3
>46	0	3
20-24	3	3

5.3.1.3. Duration of experience and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Likewise, Fisher exact chi square test was employed and revealed no association betweenn duration of experience and good Utilization of Safe Obstetric Anaesthesia Protocol (P-value=0.53)

	Aggregate safe anaesthesia		Total
Duration of experience	Poor utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol	Good utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol	
6 months to 2 years	10	17	27
2 years to 5 years	9	21	30
More than 5 years	0	3	3

Table 5 Duration of experience and safe utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

5.3.1.4. Professional training and utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol

There was no association between professional training and good utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol (P-value=0.247).

Table 6 Professional training and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

_	Aggregate safe anaesthesia		Total
	Poor utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol	Good utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol	_
Professional training			
Resident	13	17	30
BSc anesthesist	5	13	18
MSc anesthesist	0	2	2
MSc student	0	6	6
Consultant	1	3	4

- 5.3.2. Association between Utilization of Safe Obstetric Anesthesia Protocol and Individual Parameters
 - 5.3.2.1. Availability of facility and equipment with Utilization of Safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

A chi square test was employed so as to assess the presence and/absence of association between facility and equipment with good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol. Accordingly, the test revealed, strong statistical association (Pearson's $X^2=10.8$, P-value=0.001)

 Table 7 Availability of facility and equipment with utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia

 protocol

	Aggregate safe anaesthesia category		
Facility and equipment	Poor utilization of safe obstetric	Good utilization of safe obstetric	
	anaesthesia protocol	anaesthesia protocol	
Poor	9	4	
Good utilization of facility	10	37	
and equipment			

5.3.2.2. Availability of medications and intravenous fluids with utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

A chi square test was employed so as to assess the presence and/absence of association between availability of medication and intravenous fluid with good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol. Accordingly, the test revealed, strong statistical association (Pearson's X^2 =5.99, P-value=0.014).

Table 8 Availability of medications and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

Availability of	Aggregate safe anaesthesia category		
Medications and IV fluids	Poor utilization of safe obstetric	Good utilization of safe obstetric	
	anaesthesia protocol	anaesthesia protocol	
Poor availability of	6	3	
medications and IV fluids			
Good availability of	13	38	
medications and IV fluids			

5.3.2.3. Availability of monitoring device with utilization of Safe obstetric anesthesia

protocol

A chi square test was employed so as to assess the presence and/absence of association between availability of monitoring device with good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol. Accordingly, the test revealed, association between (Pearson's X^2 =4.66, P value=0.031).

Availability of	Aggregate safe anaesthesia category		
Monitoring Device	Poor utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol	Good utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol	
Poor monitoring	14	18	
Good monitoring	5	23	

 Table 9 Availability of monitoring device and utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

5.3.2.4. Conduct of anesthesia with utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol

A chi square test was employed so as to assess the presence and/absence of association between availability of monitoring device good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol. Accordingly, the test revealed, strong statistical association between (Pearson's X^2 =16.6 P value=0.0001).

	Aggregate safe anaesthesia category	
Conduct of anaesthesia	Poor utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol	Good utilization of safe obstetric anaesthesia protocol
Poor conduct of anaesthesia	12	5
Good conduct of anaesthesia	7	36

6. Discussion

The aim of the study was to assess the utilization of the safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol and associated factors among anesthesia providers in Jimma university medical center.

In this study the level utilization of good safe obstetric anesthesia protocol was 41(68%). While, the factors associated with good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol were; availability of medication and IV fluid, Conduct of anesthesia, availability of monitoring device, facility and equipment.

The level utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol in the present study was higher as compared to similar cross sectional studies conducted in Tanzania, Kenya, and Rwanda, where 65%, 19% and 36%, respectively, used the checklist [20]. The possible justification for the discrepancy might be due to differences in sample size; where a small number of sample size used in the current study while a bit higher sample size used in the prior studies. Hence, as sample size is small it might overestimate the level of utilization. Also, differences in experiences, training and professional level might explain the difference. Likewise, the study is higher compared to a survey conducted in Ethiopia, where large proportion of centers remain unable to provide safe general, spinal, pediatric and obstetric anesthesia, at all levels of hospital and across almost all of the country's regions on aggregate, 36 (58%) hospitals from the total 62 hospitals have met the minimum expected safe anesthesia requirements [17].

The factors associated with good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol were; availability of medication and IV fluid, Conduct of anesthesia, availability of monitoring device, facility and equipment. This finding was agreeable with two cross sectional studies which revealed availability of medications and IV fluids, Availability of facility and equipment and conduct of anesthesia were predictors of a higher level of utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol [6, 14]. The reason for the concordance might emanate from as the four basic parameters are readily available and accessible, the safe the obstetric anesthesia protocol execution will be easily.

6.1. Strengths and Limitations

6.1.1. Strengths

The study has identified strong associations between the good utilization of the safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol and four of the major parameters. This gives a direction on how to further improve the utilization by working on these important items.

6.1.2. Limitations

A small sample size is a limitation of this study that could be addressed in future research. First the study was based in one hospital and small sample size of anesthesia providers was used, it may result in over estimation of results. Second, this also affects the generalizability of the study.

7. Conclusion and recommendation

7.1. Conclusion

The study revealed a higher good level of utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol. The factors associated with good utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol were; availability of medication and IV fluid, Conduct of anesthesia, availability of monitoring device, facility and equipment.

7.2. Recommendations

Given the tremendous importance of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol;

The department is highly recommended to further encourage the utilization of safe obstetric anesthesia protocol.

Moreover, since the parameters to assess safe obstetric anesthesia protocol are associated with good safe obstetric anesthesia protocol; a due emphasis has to be given to

- 4 Availability of medication and IV fluid,
- **4** Bettering the Conduct of anesthesia,
- 4 Availability of facility and equipment

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9. Annexes

Annex 1 Information sheet & consent form

Jimma University, Jimma town, Ethiopia

Introduction: Good day! I am ______ from JUMC and working with investigator Tsega Firdu (MD) who is doing her Thesis for partial fulfillment of the requirement for a specialty certificate in anesthesiology. I kindly request you to lend me your attention to explain about the issue raised here below.

Purpose: The study will be, helpful to assess utilization of safe obstetrics anesthesia protocol among anesthesia providers during cesarean section from August to October, 2021 at JUMC. The Information collected during this study could be used by the MOH, JUMC, organizations supporting the services, and researchers, for planning health service improvement or for conducting further studies on quality health services. Furthermore, the main aim of this study is to write a thesis as a partial requirement for the fulfillment of specialty certificate in anesthesiology.

Procedure, risk and duration: First of all the providers were selected to take part in this study because of convenience. The data will be collected after the mother presents to the OR for cesarean section and the anesthesia provider gives the anesthesia to the mother. The risks of being participated in this study are very minimal, only taking few minutes from your day. Other than this, the study will not cause any physical harm on anybody or the organization.

Confidentiality: The information provided will be confidential .There will be no evidence that will identify you. The findings of the study will be general for the study population and will not reflect anything particular of individual person. The questioner will be coded to exclude showing names; no references will be made on reports that could link participants to the research.

Risks and discomforts: No subject is obliged to take part in this study and you may withdraw from the study any time you want.

Would you be willing to participate in the study?

1. Agree_____

2. Disagree _____

Signature of the data collector: _____

የጦጠይቅ ፈቃድ

የጦጠይቅ ፈቃደኛነት ቅጽ

ስሜ_____ይባላል። እኔ በጂማዩኒቨርሲቲ በአንስቴዥሎጂ ትምሀርት ክፍል የምርምር ቡድን ዉስጥ አንድ አባል ነኝ። የዚህ መጠይቅ አላማ.

እርስዎ አንድ የጥናቱ ክፍል አድርጌ ስጦርጥ አስፈላጊ የሆኑ ጦረጃዎችን እንደሚሰጡኝ በማሰብ ነው። በጥናቱ ለጦሳተፍ ፈቃደኛ ከሆኑ ከእርስዎ የሚ1ኘው ማንኛውም ጦረጃ በሚስጥር ይጠበቃል። ለዚህም ሲባል የእርስዎ ሥም እና አድራሻ አይ1ለጽም። እንዲሁም ከጥናቱ በኃላም በማዋለጃ ቀዶ ህክምና ክፍል የሚድረ1ውን የወላዶች ክትትል እና ተያያዥ ነገሮችን ለማዎቅ ይረዳል።

የቃል ሥምምነት

የዚህ ጥናት ዓላማው *ገ*ብቶኝ በጥናቱ ለጮሣተፍ

ሀ. ፈቃደኛ ሆኛለሁ ለ. ፈቃደኛ አይደሇሁም

በጥናቱ ለጦሳተፍ ፈቃደኛ ከሆኑ ቃለጦጠይቁን ጦቀጠል ይቻላል።

ፈቃደኛ ከሆኑ የጦጠይቁ ጦለያ ቁጥር _____ ጦጠይቁ የተካሄደበት ቀን _____

የጠያቂው ስምና ፈርማ _____

የሱፐርቫይዘር ስምና ፈርማ ______ ጥናቱን በተመለከተ ማንኛዉም አይነት ጥያቄ ካላችሁ

የሚከተለዉን አድራሻ ተጠቀሙ:: tsegafirdu.tf@gmail.com

Informed consent form Afaan Oromo version

Walii galitee

Ani Obboo/addee/Dr ______, miseensa garee qorannoo irra.

Qorannoon kun kan inni irratti xiyyeefate, waa'ee yaalamtota kutaa da'umsaati irratti.

Kanaafuu qorannoo kana irratti wanta isin irraa eegamu akka nuuf gootan kabajaan isin gaafanna. Kunis ammoo fayyaa yaalamtota kutaa da'umsaa irratti fayidaa fi jijjiirama guddaa ni fida.

Waliigaltee fi eeyyama kessaniin malee iccitii keessan nama biraaf yookin ammoo waajjira tokkoofuu akka dabarsinee hin kenninee waadaa isiniif galla.

Yoo qorannoo kana irratti hirmachuu kessan waliigallee, gaaffii waliigalaa irraa isiniif jalqabna. Deebii keessan kan dhugaa irratti hundahee yoo kennitan, faayidaa jijjiirama fayyaatiif nu gargaara.

Qorannoon kun karaa univarsiitii Jimma irraa fudhatama argatee jira. Kanafuu qorannoo kanarratti hirmaachuuf fedhii qabduu?

1. nanqaba Deebiin nanqaba yoo jette gaafii itti anutti fufi.

2. Hinqabu deebiin hinqabu yoo jette , galatomaa jedhiiti gaafii addaan kuti.

Fedhii qorannoo adeemsisuuf yaada namarraa kan fuudhu.

Maqaa_____

guyyaa gaaffii itti gaafatame/..... mallattoo......

Hordofaa isaatiin mirkanaa'uu kan muli'isu

Maqaa......guyyaa...../....mallattoo.....

Annex 2 Questionnaire

Study number_

I. Professional aspects

- 1. Age
- 2. Sex
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
- 3. Duration of experience
 - a. 6months 2 years
 - b. 2 5 years
 - c. >5 years
- 4. Professional training
 - a. Physician anesthesia provider
 - i. Consultant
 - ii. Resident
 - b. Non physician anesthesia provider

i.	BSc
ii.	MSc
iii.	MSc student

II. Facility and equipment

Operating room

- 1. Lighting
- Yes
 No

 2.
 Tilting operating table

 Yes
 No

 3.
 Supply of oxygen

 Yes
 No

 4.
 Oropharyngeal airways

 Yes
 No

 5.
 Facemasks

 Yes
 No
- 6. Laryngoscope and appropriate sized laryngoscope blades for both adult and pediatric patients

	Yes	No
7.	Appropriate sized endo	tracheal tubes for adult and pediatric patients
	Yes	No
8.	Intubation aids (e.g., M	agill forceps, bougie, stylet)
	Yes	No
9.	Functional suction devi	ce and suction catheters
	Yes	No
10.	Adult and pediatric self	-inflating bags
	Yes	No
11.	Equipment for IV infus	ions
	Yes	No
12.	Equipment for spinal an	nesthesia
	Yes	No
13.	Sterile gloves	
	Yes	No
14.	Access to a defibrillator	r
	Yes	No
15.	Stethoscope	
	Yes	No
16.	Pulse oximeter	
	Yes	No
17.	Carbon dioxide detecto	r
	Yes	No
18.	Non-invasive blood pre	ssure monitor with appropriate sized cuffs for adult and pediatric patients
	Yes	No
Post ar	nesthesia recovery area	
19.	Lighting	
	Yes	No
20.	Supply of oxygen	
	Yes	No
21.	Functional suction devic	e and suction catheters
	Yes	No
22.	Facemasks and ambu ba	g

	Yes	No
23.	Electrocardiogram	
	Yes	No
24.	Access to a defibrillator	
	Yes	No
25.	Pulse oximeter	
	Yes	No
26.	Non-invasive blood pres	sure monitor with appropriate sized cuffs for adult and pediatric patients
	Yes	No
Ш.	Medications and intrave	enous fluids
27.	Ketamine	
	Yes	No
28.	Diazepam	
	Yes	No
29.	Morphine	
	Yes	
30.	Local anesthetic (e.g., l	docaine or bupivacaine)
	Yes	No
31.	Dextrose	
	Yes	No
32.	Normal saline or Ringe	r's lactate
	Yes	No
33.	Adrenalin	
	Yes	No
34.	Atropine	
	Yes	No
35.	Paracetamol	
	Yes	No
36.	Non-steroidal anti-infla	mmatory medicine
	Yes	No
37.	Magnesium	
	Yes	No

IV. Monitoring

Intraoperative

38.	Pulse rate and quality	
	Yes	No 🔄
39.	Tissue oxygenation and	perfusion
	Yes	No 🚺
40.	Respiratory rate and qu	ality
	Yes	No
41.	Breathing system bag m	novement
	Yes	No
42.	Breath sounds	
	Yes	No
43.	Heart sound	
	Yes	No 🔲
44.	Audible signals and alar	ms at all times
	Yes	No
45.	Continuous use of pulse	e oximetry
	Yes	No
46.	Intermittent noninvasiv	e blood pressure monitoring
	Yes	No
47.	Carbon dioxide detecto	r for patients undergoing intubation
	Yes	No
Pos	toperative	
48.	Tissue oxygenation and	perfusion
	Yes	No
49.	Respiratory rate and qu	ality
	Yes	No
50.	Pulse rate and quality	
	Yes	No
51.	Continuous use of pulse	e oximetry
	Yes	No

52. Intermittent nonir	nvasive blood pressure monitoring
Yes	No
53. Assessment of pai	n score using appropriate scale
Yes	No
V. Conduct of anesthe	esia
54. Anesthesia provid	er present throughout the procedure
Yes	No
55. Trained anesthetic	c assistant throughout the procedure
Yes	No
56. Preanesthetic asso	essment
Yes	No
57. Was the anesthes	ia work station checked before starting the case?
Yes	No
58. Was WHO safe su	rgery checklist completed?
Yes	No
59. Anesthesia chart f	illed
Yes	No
60. Was there approp	riate transfer of care to PACU?
Yes	No
61. Post op pain mana	agement plan by anesthesia provider
Yes	No
62. Do you know abou	ut the International Guidelines for Safe Anaesthesia care for Obstetric
Patients?	
Yes	No
	re-anesthetic evaluation in all obstetric cases
Yes	No
If you answer	ed no, reason
64. Do you always che	eck patient's preoperative informed consent?
Yes	No

If	you answered NO, reason						
65. D	65. Do you always check patient's identification and type of surgery?						
Yes	No						
If	no, reason						
	o you think there are adequate ane	esthesia personnel i	in your department?				
Yes		·	, ,				
	no, reason						
	o you always have a trained anesth	esia assistant?					
Yes							
163							
If	no, reason						
68. D	o you have training in use and safe	ty of equipment?					
Y	es No						
69. Is	Anesthesia provided, lead or over	seen by an anesthe	siologist?				
Y	es No						
70. D	o you have access to continuous ed	lucation activity in	your department?				
Yes							
	no, reason						
71. Y	ou usually monitor your patients' ve	entilation during (G	iA)				
		Always used	Sometimes used	Never used			
	Stethoscope						
	Reservoir bag movement						
	Capnograph						
Equipm	ient						
72. D	o you always formally perform pre-	anesthetic checkin	g of anesthetic machine	e and circuit?			
Yes							
lf no,	reason						
ח 27	o you monitor patient with electron	cardiography (FKC)	in every case?				
73. D Yes	o you monitor patient with electroo	cardiography (EKG)	in every case?				

46

If no, reason_____

74. Do you monitor patient with pulse oximeter in every case?

Yes No

If no, reason_____

75. Do you always have a functional suction available for each case?

- Yes No
- If no, reason_____

76. You have all monitors on during spinal anesthesia

	Present	Functioning	Absent
Pulse oximeter			
Automated blood pressure monitor			
Manual Blood Pressure monitor			
ECG			
Thermometer			
Capnograph and end tidal measurement			
Stethoscope			
Defibrillator			

77. Do you have IV infusers available for use?

No	
110	

78. Do you have a difficult airway cart, available for emergency difficult airways

Y	es	
Y	es	

No

Post anesthesia care unit

79. Are your patients monitored and followed for at least half an hour during postoperative period?

Yes		No	

If No, reason	
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80. Are all of your patients are taken care of in the recovery room?

Yes	No	
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If no, reason_____

81. Do your patients have post op pain relief?

Yes		No	
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If No, reason_____

82. Do you have basic ICU services available, dedicated for monitoring any obstetric post op

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Yes

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No	

Assurance of principal investigator

The undersigned agrees to accept responsibility for the scientific ethical and technical conduct of the research project and for provision of required progress reports as per terms and conditions of the Institute of health faculty of medical science in effect at the time of grant is forwarded as the result of this application.

Name of the student:	Signature
Date:	
Approval of the first advisor	
Name of First Advisor:	Signature
Date:	
Name of Second advisor:	
Date:	