Analysis of caesarean section rates through 10 group classification system to identify high risk groups: The management of spontaneously labouring nulliparous women at King’s College Hospital

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BACKGROUND

The average caesarean section (CS) rate in England is currently 25% and rising however there is huge variation between centres (1) (Figure 2). The CS rate at King’s for 2012 was 25%. Classification of women into ten mutually exclusive groups based on parity, previous CS and onset of labour have suggested that up to 80% of variation in CS rates between individual centres can be explained by the CS rate within their singleton cephalic: nulliparous women (particularly those spontaneously labouring) (2). The differences in the management of this group between centres are therefore important. Analysis of King’s data using the same criteria show that spontaneously labouring nulliparous women (SLNW) account for over 20% of our CS rate each month (Figure 2a, A).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of this audit are to analyse the management of SLNW against national standards set out by NICE (Intrapartum care: management and delivery of care to women in labour, 2007) to identify incontinencies in practice which could potentially contribute to CS in this group and therefore the overall rate.

METHODS

We identified 94 nulliparous women who had spontaneously laboured and delivered by CS over the 6 month time period of November 2011 to May 2012 from the Ealing database. 72 cases were obtained and analysed for diagnosis of labour, use of paracervical, timing of amniotomy and initiation of syntocinon from diagnosis of labour dystocia.