STAKEHOLDERS' PERSPECTIVES ON THE FEASIBILITY OF PERIOPERATIVE CELL SALVAGE IN OBSTETRIC CARE: A FOCUS ON TERTIARY HOSPITALS IN NIGERIA

Gina Dominguez Armengol[1], Nathaniel Usoro[2], Queeneth Kalu[2], Etim Ekanem[2], Tomris Cesuroglu[1], Marjolein Dieleman[1]

[1]Faculty of Science, Athena Institute, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands
[2]University of Calabar Teaching Hospital

Introduction: Nigeria faces blood bank shortage and holds one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, post-partum haemorrhage (PPH) being the main cause of death. Perioperative cell salvage , is a suitable technique for emergency situations in obstetric care when haemorrhage occurs. However, cell salvage use rates appear to be quite low in Nigeria and it is not known what could be the challenges of implementing it in obstetrics.

Aim: Assess the feasibility and challenges of implementing cell salvage services in obstetric care in Nigeria using a health system perspective.

Methods: A transdisciplinary approach was used in this research. First a multidisciplinary meeting with the key informants of University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) (n=4) was held to identify and categorize key stakeholders to the provision of cell salvage locally. Then 12 semi-structured interviews (SSI) were conducted with the stakeholders thus identified to assess the feasibility and challenges of implementing CELL SALVAGE in the local setting. Interviews were transcribed, and subsequently a thematic analysis was conducted with the software program ATLAS.ti 9.

Results: Stakeholders that had high interest in introducing cell salvage, and high power to mobilize the resources to do so, were: Hospital CEO, policy makers, patient blood management committee (PBMC), anaesthesiologists and obstetricians. Professional associations and surgeons had the same interest but lower power. Several factors have been reported that could influence cell salvage feasibility: presence of an advocacy group, government priority setting, cost containment, local accessibility of consumables and spares, provision of training and willingness to get trained, and acceptability to the end-users and healthcare practitioners.

Conclusions: Key stakeholders in maternal care, perceived that cell salvage in a Nigerian tertiary hospital is feasible if certain conditions related to staff skills, materials and costs would be addressed. This research is a call to managers and policy makers to consider the introduction of cell salvage in tertiary hospitals in Nigeria, with an affordable price, availability of spares and consumables within the local resources and provision of training to the users and maintenance.

Corresponding author: Gina Dominguez Armengol, (MSc), The Foundation University Institute for Primary Health Care Research (IDIAPJGol), Girona, Catalonia, Spain

Email: ginadoar@gmail.com