



**Service Priorities and Programmes
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Initiative for Improving Quality of Service through Skin-to-Skin Contact to enhance Maternal-Infant Bonding after Elective Caesarean Birth in Delivery Operation Theatre

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Introduction

Different studies show that skin-to-skin contact (SSC) between the mother and her baby in early postpartum period enhanced newborn thermoregulation and breastfeeding initiation, as well as having more mother-to-child interaction and less crying. A pilot initiative of SSC, after elective caesarean section, in collaboration with midwives has been implemented in the Operation Theatre since October 2013. Being the first hospital to introduce this form of care, not only provides the best service to our clients, but also allows the mother and her newborn baby to enjoy and benefit from the advantages of this mode of care.

Objectives

1. Provide the mother and her newborn to initiate SSC immediately after elective caesarean delivery
2. Pioneer the way for an improvement in obstetric care

Methodology

With patient screening for contraindications by anaesthesiologists and patient education by antenatal midwives and theatre nurses, the patients were enrolled in the service programme. A patient satisfactory survey was conducted retrospectively. Both open-ended and close-ended questions were applied to collect subjective data by independently completing a questionnaire.

Result

It was noted that 79.9% (119 cases) women who underwent elective caesarean section joined the pilot programme from October 2013 to January 2014. The preliminary data was collected and revealed that 80.7% (96 cases) of participants successfully initiated SSC after birth and all of them were satisfied with the service we provided. The mean patient satisfaction score was 9.65/10. Some participants emphasised that the SSC with their newborn babies significantly reduced maternal anxiety during the operation. The average time of SSC was 13 (12.67) minutes and no neonatal hypothermia was reported. The pilot scheme was valuable in accessing the

feasibility to implement SSC during caesarean section in the Delivery Operation Theatre. The SSC initiative helps mothers, anaesthesiologists, obstetricians, theatre nurses and midwives improve their adaptability. Furthermore, with this favourable categorical data, the extensibility for SSC is planned to commence in the post-anaesthetic care unit, so as to contribute to the continuity of maternity care and a better service for our clients.