**PO07   GENERAL ANAESTHESIA FOR CESAREAN DELIVERY**

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**Background:**

In Portugal c-section rate is 37.1%.1 Although regional anaesthesia (RA) is the hallmark choice for c-section, general anaesthesia may be indicated due to emergent/urgent delivery, contraindication for regional technique or inadequate regional block. The WHO suggests an ideal rate of 5-10% of c-section deliveries for optimal mother and child outcomes.2The goal of the present study is to characterize women that underwent general anaesthesia for c-section in a tertiary obstetric unit, from January 2019 to December 2022.

**Material and Methods:**

Review of clinical data of consecutive women submitted to c-section under general anaesthesia in the considered time frame. Retrospective and descriptive analysis were performed.

**Results:**

In this period there were 8912 deliveries and the c-section rate was 31.6%. Of the total number of c-sections 9.7% (n=273) underwent general anaesthesia.

The indications for general anaesthesia (n=273) were:

* Contraindication to regional anaesthesia – 37%
	+ Coagulation/platelet disorders – 46%
	+ Active infection – 22%
	+ Lumbar spine pathology – 20%
	+ Central nervous system disorder – 12%
* Obstetric emergency or urgency – 23%
	+ Fetal distress – 48%
	+ Placental abruption – 29%
	+ Prolapsed cord – 16%
	+ Eclampsia/HELLP – 6%
	+ Uterine rupture – 1%
* Failure of regional anaesthesia – 23%
* Maternal refusal for regional anaesthesia – 7%
* Unkown reason – 10%

**Discussion and Conclusions:**

We observe a high rate of c-section and general anaesthesia. As a referral centre, we have a higher prevalence of maternal disorders and high-risk pregnancies contributing for regional anaesthesia contraindication. Probably, as a teaching unit for anaesthesia trainees, the prevalence of failed technique is slightly higher.

**References:**

1. INE | DGS (2021). Cesarianas nos Hospitais: PORDATA.
2. WHO (2015). Statement on Caesarean Section Rates: Human Reproduction Programme and World Health Organization.