

# Caesarean Section by Maternal Request

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The rate of caesarean section is increasing worldwide and together with this, is the increasing number of surgeries on maternal request. The reported caesarean section rate for maternal request ranges from 2.5% to 7.0% and appeared to be rising, including in Malaysia. Caesarean section rate in the Hospital Kemaman centre is also showing an upward trend, yet the contribution of the maternal request to it was not known. This study was initiated to answer this question **Methods:** This is a retrospective review in of caesarean section by maternal request from January 2016 to December 2018. The characteristics of the women who requested caesarean delivery were analysed and the reasons for such requests were tabulated. **Results:** There were a total of 115 cases of caesarean delivery without medical or obstetrical indication among 3,439 surgeries between 2013 and 2017 giving the rate of 3.3%. Eighty-four cases between 2016-2018 were further analysed which showed 34 (45.9%) of these women had previous caesarean delivery. Opting for Elective repeat caesarean section is an indication in itself for caesarean and needs to be distinguished from caesarean by maternal request. Majority of the women with past history of caesarean section had not attempted vaginal delivery after the said surgery. The most common reasons to request caesarean delivery were the history of subfertility and refusal to undergo vaginal delivery after caesarean section, which made up 70.2% of the cases. **Conclusion:** The results highlighted the burden of delivering babies via caesarean section to women who had no medical or obstetrical indication. Current trend of increasing prevalence of infertility and caesarean delivery are expected to cause higher number of caesarean sections by maternal request.

# Umbilical Cord Blood Banking – Do the Donors Know Enough to Make an Informed Choice?

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Umbilical cord blood (UCB) is a non-invasive, alternative source of hematopoietic stem cells. Despite the immense potential, there seems to be a general lack of knowledge and awareness about UCB banking globally. **Objectives:** This study aimed at assessing the perception of the Malaysian pregnant women with regards to UCB banking and whether they had enough knowledge and awareness to make an informed choice. **Methodology:** Cross-sectional questionnaire-based survey was conducted among 255 pregnant women attending clinics in Kuala Lumpur, with set inclusion and exclusion criteria following ethics approval. **Results:** The mean score of awareness and knowledge was  $3.00 \pm 2.15$  and  $4.86 \pm 4.01$  respectively. Higher age was associated with greater knowledge ( $p=0.002$ ) and having more children was significantly associated with both higher level of awareness ( $p=0.018$ ) and greater knowledge ( $p=0.032$ ). Monthly family income was also significantly associated with both higher level of awareness ( $p=0.006$ ) and knowledge ( $p=0.006$ ). Despite being well educated, only one third of the participants were aware of UCB banking and only 7.9% had good knowledge levels. Contrary to their perception, majority acquired their knowledge through media and friends with only 31.5% getting it from their health care providers. **Conclusion/Summary:** The potential donors in this study had poor levels of awareness and knowledge. As these have a direct effect on the perception and reflected in their choice of UCB banking and donation, it is the duty of the health care professionals to assist them to make an informed choice.