INCREASING VACUUM EXTRACTION RATE AT MULAGO HOSPITAL, UGANDA AFTER INTRODUCING RECYCLED KIWI VACUUM EXTRACTORS

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Introduction: Vacuum extraction can be a life saving procedure in the case of delay in second stage or foetal distress. It is underused in Africa. Lack of equipment might play a role. In Mulago Hospital it was used in <0.5% of deliveries. Kiwi vacuum extractors are re-used in several hospitals in Africa, but little is known about their performance when re-used.

Setting: Mulago Hospital, the national referral hospital in Kampala, Uganda with 33,345 deliveries in 2012, many of them complicated referrals.

Intervention: Recycled Kiwi vacuum extractors were introduced and outcomes monitored.

Findings: From November 2012 to May 2013, 284 vacuum extractions were performed. The vacuum extraction rate increased from <0.5% to 2.8%, from 8 to 55 procedures monthly. The failure rate was 6.7%. The emergency caesarean section rate did not change. We documented 94.7% live births, similar to the overall live birth rate on this labour ward. Of these, 85.9% had an Apgar score of 7 or more at 5 minutes.

Discussion: By introducing recycled vacuum extractors, the rate of vacuum deliveries increased. We hope to see a decrease in caesarean section rate, postpartum complications, intrapartum foetal death and improved neonatal and maternal outcomes as surveillance continues. We calculated that 5 vacuum extractions could be performed with one recycled vacuum extractor.

Conclusion: During this low cost intervention the vacuum extraction rate increased from <0.5% to 2.8%. Though promising, more research is needed into the impact on caesarean section rates and foetal, neonatal and maternal outcomes.

Key words: vacuum extraction, outcome.