Flashpoint 7: Infection Prevention and Management

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Cesarean Section Safety and Quality in Low Resource Settings
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What are some risk factors for maternal sepsis?
Factors Influencing Occurrence of Maternal Sepsis

Maternal Infection

Delivery Factors
- Antibiotic overuse and bacterial resistance
- Early discharge from facility
- Poor WASH infrastructure and behaviors
- Multiple vaginal exams
- Postpartum hemorrhage
  - Prolonged rupture of membranes
  - Prolonged labor
  - Cesarean delivery

Environmental Factors
- Long distance from health care facility
- Delivery by untrained attendant
- Lack of transportation
- Low socioeconomic status
- Cultural factors that delay seeking treatment

Maternal Factors
- Malaria
- Anemia
- HIV
- Obesity
- Poor nutrition
- Pelvic infection
- Invasive procedures
- Primiparity

Maternal Infection
Changing Landscape of Childbirth

- Facility births increasing
- C-S increasingly common (18.6%)

- Poor facility IP
  - IP guidelines outdated
  - Inappropriate Abx prophylaxis
  - Surgical technique; tissue oxygenation
  - Post-op care/monitoring

- Skilled providers and facility infrastructures have not kept pace

- Increased numbers and rates of Post C-S infections, and M/M

(Jhpiego, USAID, Maternal and Child Survival Program)
Opportunities for Improvement on Maternal Infection

- Better labor care
- Safe Cesarean Birth Practices*
  - Appropriate use of prophylactic antibiotics
  - Proper skin preparation technique
  - Vaginal cleansing with povidone-iodine immediately prior to cesarean section
  - Adequate tissue oxygenation
  - Proper surgical techniques
  - Proper infection prevention (e.g., instrument processing and storage)

Safer Cesarean Births in Tanzania Project
Opportunities for Improvement on Maternal Infection

- Post-operative care and monitoring
- Stratification of discharge
- Modified obstetric early warning score; UK Red Flag Sepsis
- New WHO definition of Maternal Sepsis
Thank you