



OASIS Clinic: Evaluation of a new service in a University Hospital Setting

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Aims:

Genital tract trauma with vaginal births is common & associated with significant morbidity, particularly with obstetric anal sphincter injuries (OASIS). In line with the RCOG guidelines, women who have undergone an anal sphincter repair, should be reviewed at a convenient time by clinicians with a special interest in OASIS in a multidisciplinary setting.

We aimed to evaluate a new multidisciplinary service for women who sustain OASIS, in a university hospital and assess patient satisfaction.

Study Design:

Data was collected retrospectively & prospectively using a patient satisfaction questionnaire, about the OASIS clinic experience. This information was analysed on microsoft excel.

Results:

36 women were seen between April & September 2016, at 10-12 weeks post delivery. Of these, 83% sustained a 3rd degree, 11% had a 4th degree & 6% had a 2nd degree perineal tear. 67% of the women were referred for pelvic floor physiotherapy & 64% for an endoanal scan. Additional support was offered by contacting women two weeks postnatally to enquire about any faecal symptoms & triage for urgent review. 26 patients completed the questionnaire. All women found the staff approachable & friendly, & 96% experienced a high quality service with the appointment system. 100% of the responders felt that the clinic environment & facilities were good to excellent.

“Consultant very kind & Midwife also kind and reassuring both explained things very well”

Interpretation of results:

All patients felt they received adequate information about the risk of recurrence of OASIS, and their ideas, concerns and expectations were addressed, facilitating the discussion regarding future mode of delivery. They noted a good working relationship between the midwife & consultant in clinic.

All responders felt they received sufficient privacy & support during examination. They thought this was an excellent & much required service to ensure appropriate follow-up. 100% responders said they would recommend this service to a friend/relative & 35% were happy to be part of a patient support group.

Conclusion:

Patients received the new OASIS service extremely well. Women felt their concerns were met & they were provided comprehensive care. We aim to enhance facilities by having endoanal scan and anal manometry facilities in the clinic. We shall strive to continue the service evaluation with the objective of improving the quality of care for our patients.