

Table 3 Details of maternal deaths due to direct and indirect causes in Bahrain, 1987–2004

Direct causes (32 cases, 53.3%)

Indirect causes (28 cases, 46.7%)

Hypertensive disease (11 cases, 18.3%)

Diagnosis

- Pre-eclampsia (6)
- Eclampsia (5)

Cause of death

- Intracranial haemorrhage (4)
- HELLP syndrome (3)
- Disseminated intravascular coagulation (2)
- Pulmonary oedema (2)

Stage of delivery at death

- Antenatal (3)
- Postpartum (8)

Haemorrhage (8 cases, 13.3%)

Diagnosis

- Atonic uterus (3)
- Placenta accreta (2)
- Delayed postpartum haemorrhage (1)
- Abruptio placenta (2)

Delivery

- Caesarean section hysterectomy (6)
- [delayed decision for hysterectomy (3)]

Pulmonary embolism (8 cases, 13.3%)

Diagnosis

- Pulmonary embolism (5)
- Amniotic fluid embolism (3)

Risk factors for embolism

- Overweight (8)
- Grand multiparity (5)
- Sickle-cell disease (3)
- Caesarean section (5)
- Pre-eclampsia (2)

Stage of delivery at death

- Antenatal (2)
- Postnatal (6)

Genital tract sepsis (5 cases, 8.3%)

Diagnosis

- Peritonitis (1)
- Encephalopathy (1)
- Septicaemia (3)