

Table 3 Neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) patient characteristics and outcomes by delivery type in Amman, Jordan

Variable	Vaginal (n = 162)	Caesarean (n = 156)	Total (n = 318)	P-value
Female sex	72 (44)	81 (52)	153 (48)	0.222
Gestational age				
Gestational age (weeks) [median (IRQ)]	36 (35–37)	36 (34–37)	36 (34–37)	0.016
Missing values [no. (%)]	2 (1)	2 (1)	4 (1)	–
Birth weight				
Birth weight (kg) [median (IRQ)]	2.3 (2–3)	2.3 (1.8–2.8)	2.3 (1.9–2.9)	0.039
Missing values [no. (%)]	0 (0)	1 (1)	1 <1	–
Weight at 5 days (kg) [median (IRQ)]	2.11 (1.79–2.83)	1.90 (1.58–2.43)	2.00 (1.73–2.60)	0.045
Missing values [no. (%)]	110 (68)	101 (65)	211 (66)	–
Days in hospital [median (IRQ)]	3 (1–6)	4 (2–9)	3 (1–7)	0.002
Reason(s) for admission [no. (%)]				
Sepsis	15 (9)	16 (10)	31 (10)	0.912
Respiratory distress syndrome	105 (65)	107 (69)	212 (67)	0.552
Neonatal pneumonia	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (<1)	1.000
Prematurity	75 (46)	89 (57)	164 (52)	0.071
Heart disease	3 (2)	3 (2)	6 (2)	1.000
Congenital malformation	12 (7)	6 (4)	18 (6)	0.258
Overweight infant	8 (5)	9 (6)	17 (5)	0.936
Low birth weight infant	22 (14)	22 (14)	44 (14)	1.000
Jaundice	8 (5)	8 (5)	16 (5)	1.000
Low Apgar score	2 (1)	17 (11)	19 (6)	< 0.001
Hypoglycaemia	3 (2)	1 (1)	4 (1)	0.642
Neonatal asphyxia	4 (2)	10 (6)	14 (4)	0.150
Other	55 (34)	44 (28)	99 (31)	0.325
Death	12 (7)	15 (10)	27 (8)	–
Apgar scores				
Apgar score at 1 min. [median (IRQ)]	7 (5–7)	6 (5–7)	7 (5–7)	0.339
Missing values [no. (%)]	131 (81)	10 (6)	141 (44)	–
Apgar score at 5 min. [median (IRQ)]	8 (7–8)	8 (6–8)	8 (7–8)	0.149
Missing values [no. (%)]	107 (66)	10 (6)	117 (37)	–
Supplement use by mother				
Vitamin D (nmol/L) [median (IRQ)]	3.5 (2.5–5.2)	3.5 (2.5–4.9)	3.5 (2.5–5.0)	0.945
C-reactive protein ever positive [no. (%)]				1.000
Missing	17 (10)	12 (8)	29 (9)	–
Negative	133 (92)	132 (92)	265 (92)	–
Positive	12 (8)	12 (8)	24 (8)	–
White blood cell counts				
1st value ($\times 10^9$ /L) [median (IRQ)]	13.9 (10.3–18.4)	13.1 (9.2–16.8)	13.2 (9.9–17.3)	0.047
Missing values [no. (%)]	8 (5)	0 (0)	8 (3)	–
NICU treatment				
Surfactant [no. (%)]	7 (4)	18 (12)	25 (8)	0.029
Antibiotics (days) [median (IRQ)]	3 (2–6)	4 (3–8)	4 (2–7)	0.002
Mechanical ventilation [no. (%)]	12 (7)	17 (11)	29 (9)	0.376
Mechanical ventilation (days) [median (IRQ)]	2 (2–3)	4 (1–9)	3 (1–6)	–
Nasal cannula [no. (%)]	48 (30)	69 (44)	117 (37)	0.010
Nasal cannula (days) [median (IRQ)]	1 (1–2)	1 (1–3)	1 (1–2)	–
Oxyhood [no. (%)]	97 (60)	94 (60)	191 (60)	1.000
Oxyhood (days) [median (IRQ)]	1 (1–2)	1 (1–2)	1 (1–2)	–
Incubator [no. (%)]	56 (35)	52 (33)	108 (34)	0.909
Incubator (days) [median (IRQ)]	1 (1–2)	2 (1–2)	1 (1–2)	–
Mother's complications [no. (%)]				
Gestational diabetes mellitus	7 (4)	15 (10)	22 (7)	0.101
Premature rupture of membranes	11 (7)	11 (7)	22 (7)	1.000
Pre-eclampsia	3 (2)	28 (18)	31 (10)	< 0.001

IRQ = interquartile range.