



Approx 16,000 women die of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth per year. The mother plays a pivotal role in the family and without her, the children and the family unit are adversely affected. MMR is indicative of women's status in the society and quality of health care services. MMR in Pakistan is 276/100,000 live births, while in Baluchistan it is 785/100,000. It is one of the highest among all south Asian countries. 65% of births take place at home by non-skilled birth attendants and two thirds of these maternal deaths are due to a preventable cause – PPH. Women frequently die of PPH within two hours and aggressive treatment can be required to save the them. So we need to add a new safe drug into the protocol for the management of third stage of labour to control PPH and hence, mother's life.

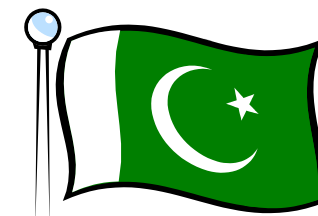
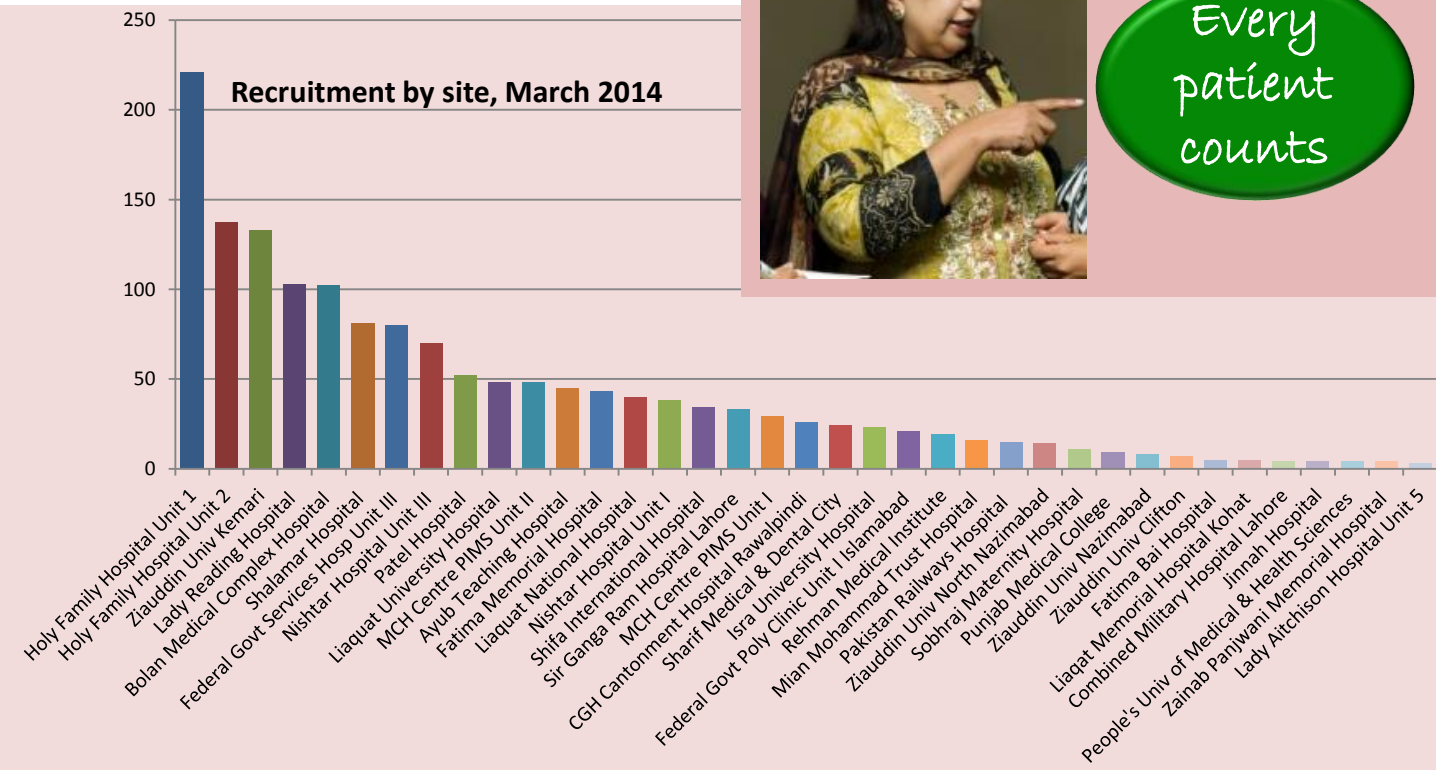
*Tasneem Ashraf
Bolan Medical Complex Hospital, Quetta*



When I received the letter of invitation from our National Coordinator Rizwana Chaudhri to participate in the trial, I was so excited and felt proud to become a collaborator in an international trial of such a reputation and standing. The WOMAN trial on the role of tranexamic acid in PPH is of immense importance to a country like ours. PPH is a nightmare for us; thousands of our mothers die each year because of it. We look at this drug with a hope that it may prove effective as it is cheap and easily available.

The WOMAN trial is the first international trial in which we are participating and therefore an honour and privilege for us. As it is our first experience, my colleagues and I have learned a lot from it. We thank the trial team for giving us this opportunity, their timely assistance and guidance on every matter that concerns us. I hope we will prove to be a great contributor in this study and will be given similar opportunities in the future from the LSHTM and other reputable international institutions – we have the enthusiasm and eagerness to work!

Habiba Sharaf Ali, Ziauddin University, Karachi



WOMAN TRIAL IN PAKISTAN



WE NEED MORE EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS FOR PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS IN PAKISTAN

Every obstetrician in Pakistan is fully aware of their country's maternal mortality statistics. They do not need the statistics to tell them that mothers die routinely in childbirth because for many of them this is an everyday occurrence.

- They know that;
- ❖ Pakistan ranks third in the world with the highest estimated number of maternal deaths, behind India and Nigeria.
 - ❖ Pakistan maternal mortality ratio is 276 deaths per 100,000 live births.
 - ❖ The vast majority of maternal deaths in Pakistan are caused by postpartum haemorrhage (PPH).

Every day doctors are left to do their best for the women who through social, economical and political reasons are at a high risk of dying. However, doctors can make a huge difference for the women that present to them for care. They can ensure that they provide the best cost effective evidence based care so that women's chances of survival increases and that their families are not burdened with unnecessary costs for ineffective interventions.

Additionally, doctors can contribute to finding more effective ways to treat women, and doctors in Pakistan have embraced their responsibility to this by participating in the WOMAN trial.

Pakistan is the second highest recruiting country in the trial and there are now 33 hospitals (39 sites) recruiting, with two more about to start. Not only will you make a difference to the women in Pakistan, but to women globally. Be proud of your contribution.

With thanks for welcoming us to Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi during the National Meetings – enjoy the photographs in this newsletter!

Haleema & Ian

Nigeria	4426
Pakistan	1672
Uganda	826
Cameroon	747
UK	570
Kenya	568
Nepal	529
Sudan	443
Tanzania	337
Albania	314
Zambia	270
Bangladesh	235
Burkina Faso	139
Ethiopia	117
Jamaica	45
Ghana	41
Egypt	31
Colombia	8



ISLAMABAD MEETING

Why I wanted to take part in the trial?
A survey was conducted by an American NGO at Khuzdar (Balochistan). A pregnant mother said, "I think I am pregnant again lets see who dies this time me or my child?" This is the real status of maternal mortality in my country so I will always want to take part in any effort that will improve our MMR.
Naila Israr, Federal Government Services Hospital, Islamabad



Mother and Child Hospital, PIMS



Humaira Bilqis from Holy Family Hospital, Haleema, National Coordinator Rizwana Chaudhri and Ian



Site monitoring visit at Holy Family Hospital



Our Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology was very excited before the visit of the WOMAN trial team and very pleased to meet Haleema Shakur & Ian Roberts. As Liaquat National Hospital (LNH) is a tertiary referral centre, the number of patients admitted with PPH is considerable. Since we have started the collaboration with the trial our junior doctors have gained a better understanding of the management of PPH. The trial has given the trial team of LNH an opportunity to understand the process of documentation and how to participate in multicentre and multinational studies.

It is very important for us and our hospital to be part of an international study. After the visit our standing has improved and a few points were cleared in discussion with the team. We hope to find a solution to reduce the number of deaths and hysterectomies due to PPH. I will be very pleased to conduct workshops at Liaquat National Hospital for the new hospitals joining in the trial in Karachi.

Haleema A Hashmi, Principal Investigator, LNH Head of Obs & Gynae Department, Liaquat National Hospital & Medical College, Karachi



The WOMAN trial is addressing a very important reproductive health issue ie PPH which is the leading cause of maternal mortality in Pakistan. It is an honour for our hospital to be a collaborator in an international RCT initiated by a prestigious institution in the UK. It is an excellent experience for me and my team to work with such a dedicated team and so many international colleagues world over. Sharing each others' views will enhance our knowledge and experience. If by the end of the trial tranexamic acid has shown significant benefit in reducing maternal mortality and severe morbidity because of PPH, we will be delighted that we have participated in such a wonderful trial.

Roshan Ara Qazi, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro



KARACHI MEETING



LAHORE MEETING

