

# Outcome of primary repair of obstetrics anal sphincter injury: Experience in a tertiary hospital in Malaysia

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** Obstetrics anal sphincter injury (OASI) rates are increasing due to improved detection. Since 2006, repair has been led by Urogynaecologists, with follow-up in perineal clinics. We aimed to assess anal incontinence symptoms using and repair effectiveness. **Materials and Methods:** This was a retrospective study of 129 OASI patients (January 2022-December 2023) traced from medical records with documented demographics, delivery details and complications. These patients attended perineal clinics post-delivery, with referrals for physiotherapy. Bowel symptoms were assessed using St. Mark's score and transperineal ultrasonography (TPUS) was performed at 8 weeks. **Results:** Of 129 patients, 122 has 3rd degree tears and 7 had 4th degree tears. Faecal incontinence occurred in 3.1% resolving after pelvic floor exercises. One patient had flatus incontinence, also resolved with exercises. Among 98 patients who underwent TPUS, 15.3% had residual anal sphincter defects, mostly asymptomatic. **Conclusion:** Primary repair by gynaecologists is effective, with most patients experiencing good outcomes. Perineal clinic follow-up is crucial for assessing symptoms and planning for future pregnancies.