

Evaluation of Preoperative Haemoglobin Level and Blood Transfusion Practices among Patients Attending to a Tertiary care unit in Sri Lanka-Colombo North Teaching Hospital

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INTRODUCTION

Preoperative anaemia is a very common problem in routine surgical patients worldwide. Causes for pre operative anaemia can be variable. Pre operative anaemia is associated with the increased risk of peri - operative allogeneic blood transfusion. Detection and management of preoperative anaemia will reduce the risk of allogeneic blood transfusions. So it is justifiable to do a study on prevalence of anaemia and causes for anaemia in surgical patients to decide on corrective actions.

AIM

To identify the haemoglobin levels of surgical patient attending to the Colombo North Teaching Hospital for routine surgical procedures and to find out whether there is a relationship between the preoperative hemoglobin and transfusion practices.

METHOD

Study conducted as descriptive study. Data collected from all surgical units at Colombo North Teaching Hospital admitted for routine surgeries. Sample size was 384. We Obtained data on haemoglobin level, surgery type, and demographic data of the patient. Data analyzed using SPSS software.

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RESULTS

Among 384 patients 156 (41%) were anaemic and 51% of females, 33% of males were anaemic. Severity of anaemia among the study population was as follows, 62% - mild anaemia, 37.8% moderate anaemia and 1.2% had severe anaemia. Only 9 patients were investigated for anaemia. Thirteen patients had been transfused during the hospital stay but only one patient was non anaemic prior to the surgery.

Figure 1: Prevalence of anaemia among the study population

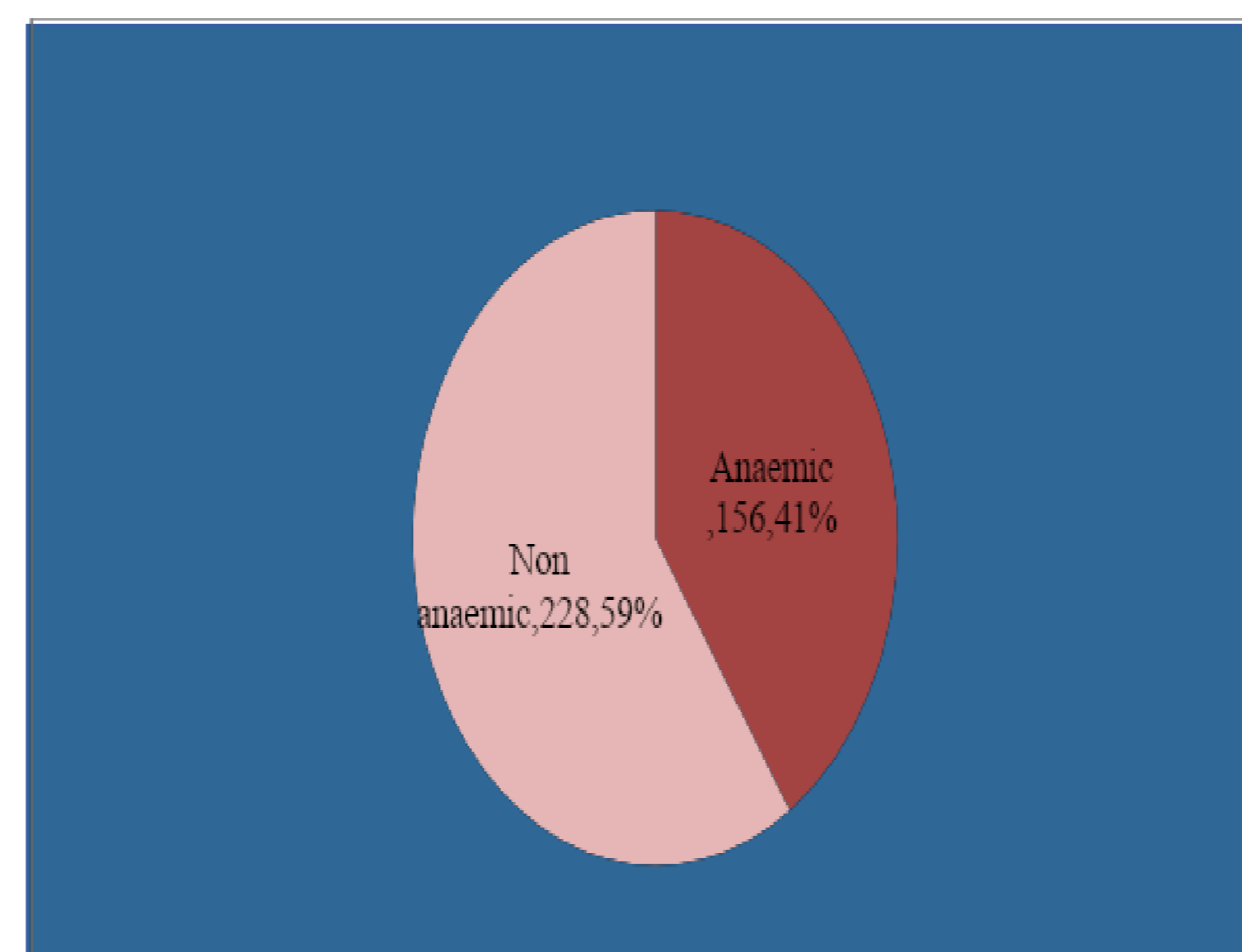


Figure 2: Prevalence of anaemia according to the gender

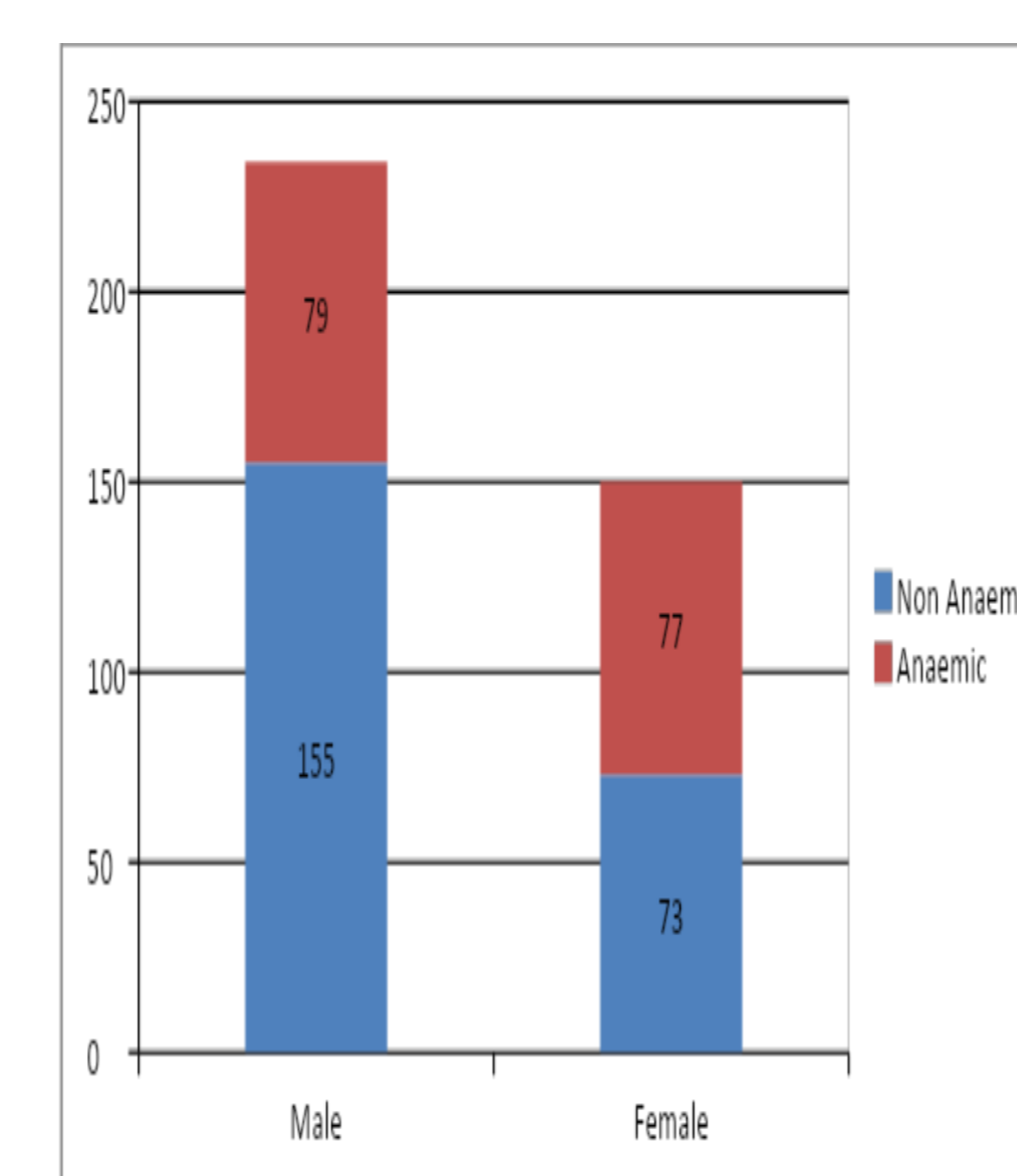


Figure 3: Anaemia Severities

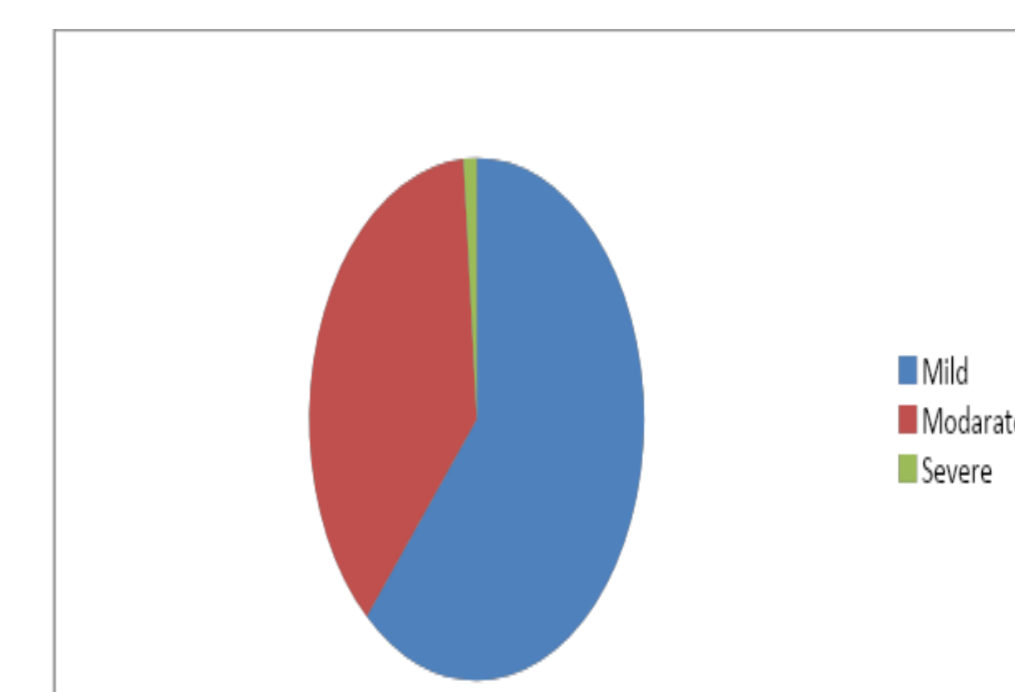
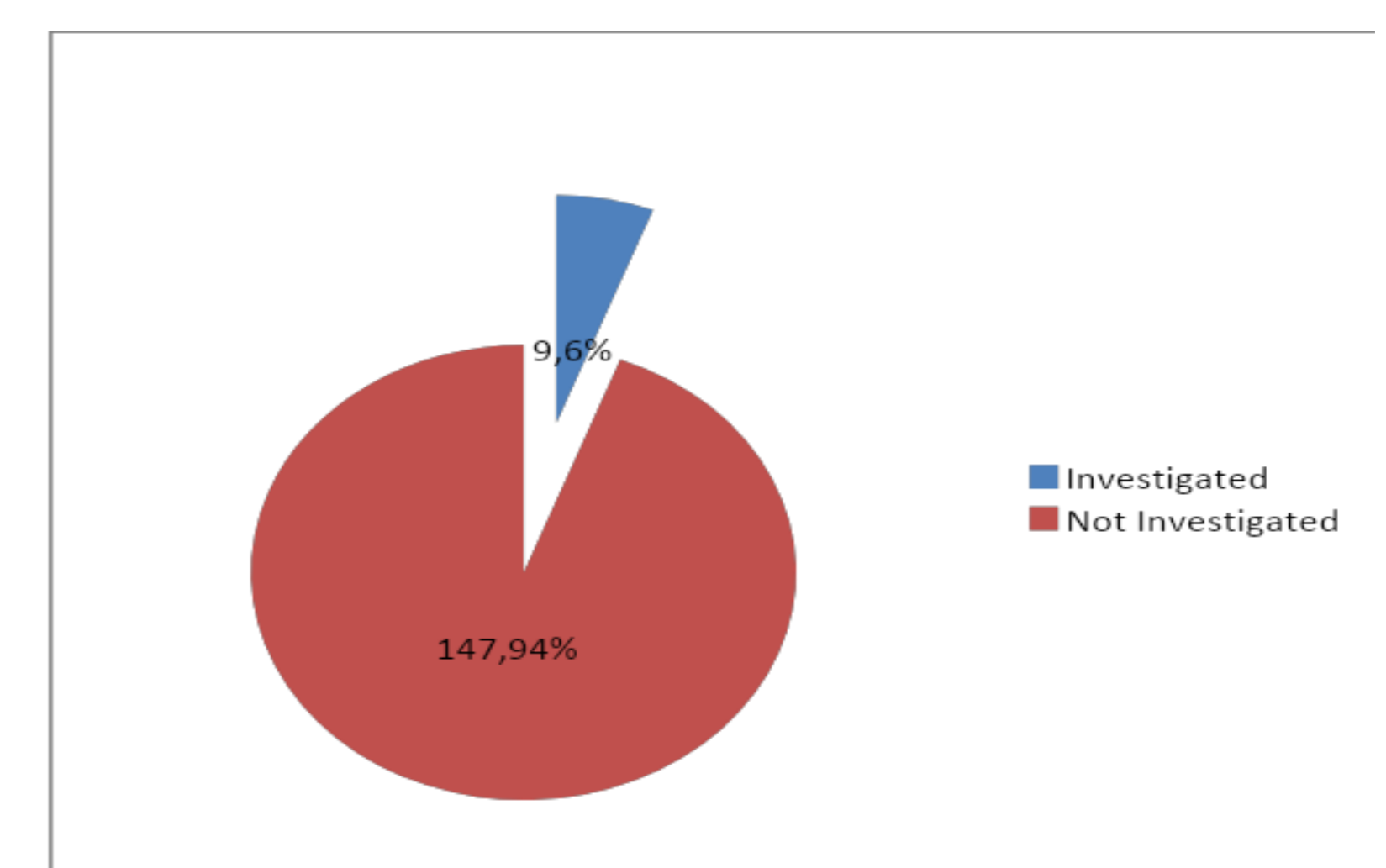


Figure 4: Demonstrates the percentage of investigating for cause of anaemia



CONCLUSIONS

Preoperative anaemia is a significant finding among surgical patients in Sri Lankan setting with a female preponderance. But trends for investigations for cause for anaemia is lacking. Risk of blood transfusions was associated with the haemoglobin level and the surgical risk category. It is recommended to investigate to find the presences of anaemia and cause for anaemia well before the surgery and to correct them at least in high to intermediate risk category surgeries.

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