

**“CLINICAL AND ETIOLOGICAL STUDY OF  
PREGNANCY RELATED ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY”**

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**ABSTRACT**

**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

Acute Kidney Injury as a complication in pregnancy contributes to a high rate of morbidity and mortality in our country. The aim of this study is to analyze the various causes of acute kidney injury in pregnancy, the factors affecting its course and to determine the outcome of pregnancy in the affected cases. This is necessary to help in the early diagnosis and prevention of complications to the mother and the child.

**OBJECTIVES**

The objectives are to study the etiological profile of acute kidney injury in pregnancy and to study the clinical course of acute kidney injury in pregnancy.

**METHODS**

This is a prospective cohort study, conducted over a period of one and half years with a total of 53 pregnant patients with acute kidney injury admitted to a tertiary care hospital and those without previous history of hypertension, diabetes mellitus or renal disease. The subjects were observed and serum urea, creatinine and hemoglobin levels assessed and progress noted. The final prognosis was then charted and analyzed.

**RESULTS**

Our study showed that 43.39% patients belonged to the age group of 26-30 years and 47.1% were primi patients. 85% recovered and only 15 % mortality was seen in the study group. 60.38% had blood urea levels between 40-100 mg/dl and 47.12% had blood creatinine levels between 1-2mg/dl. 49% patients had hemoglobin levels between 7-9.9mg/dl. Most common cause for acute kidney injury in our study is due to hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.

**INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSION**

This concludes that pre-eclampsia is the most frequent etiology followed by post-partum hemorrhage and abruptio placenta. This concludes that prevention is the best and least expensive solution. Prenatal care and greater access to emergency obstetric care services could decrease pregnancy related acute kidney injury and its consequences.

**KEYWORDS:** Acute kidney injury; Pre-eclampsia; Pre-natal care

## INTRODUCTION

AKI is a sudden loss of kidney function, resulting in the retention of urea and other waste products, and dysregulation of fluid and electrolytes.<sup>1</sup> This can result from specific diseases of the kidney (e.g., interstitial nephritis, glomerulonephritis) or extra renal pathology (e.g. dehydration, heart failure, sepsis, obstruction).<sup>1</sup> Recovery is the rule when it is diagnosed and treated early.

Renal Etiology of Acute Kidney Injury in Pregnancy

Clinical investigation for the cause of AKI in pregnancy is the same as in the nonpregnant population, which includes consideration of pre-renal, renal, and post-renal etiologies.

The causes may be

Pre Renal

- Hemorrhage
- Hyperemesis gravidarum
- Congestive heart failure

Renal

- Sepsis
- Acute tubular necrosis (ATN)
- Pyelonephritis
- Renal cortical necrosis
- Thrombotic microangiopathy
- Pre eclampsia
- HELLP Syndrome
- Acute fatty liver of pregnancy (AFLP)
- Glomerulonephritis

Medications

Post Renal

- Obstruction

In developing countries like India, AKI remains a frequent and grave complication of pregnancy associated with maternal and fetal mortality. There has been decline in the incidence due to improvement in the antenatal care, early diagnosis and also of the legalization of abortion.<sup>2</sup>

The aim of this study is to analyse the various causes of acute kidney injury in

pregnancy, the factors affecting its course and to determine the outcome of pregnancy among the pregnant women treated at Mysore medical college and research institute, Mysore.

#### NeedforStudy

Pregnancy induced acute kidney injury not only negatively affect pregnancy outcomes but have a relevant effect on the future health of affected mothers and their children. Pregnancy induced acute kidney injury merits special attention because it involves risk to two lives.

Pregnancy induced acute kidney injury is of concern because it is associated with high rates of maternal morbidity and a case fatality rate of 2.9%.<sup>3</sup>

Pregnancy induced acute kidney injury is also associated with significant fetal mortality and morbidity. The odds of perinatal mortality increases 4 fold when compared with pregnancies without pregnancy induced acute kidney injury.<sup>4</sup>

Studies from India have reported high perinatal mortality of 20% to 45% due to intrauterine death,still birth, and pre maturity.<sup>5</sup>

Good antenatal care, early identification and correction of problem leading to acute kidney injury by appropriate tertiary care management will reduce the incidence of acute kidney injury in pregnancy.<sup>6</sup>

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To study etiological profile of acute kidney injury in pregnancy.
2. Study the clinical course of acute kidney injury in pregnancy.

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### Source of data

Primary source of information- Pregnant patients with AKI admitted to tertiary care hospital, Mysore.

Secondary source of information from published articles journals, books, related websites are used in planning and developing synopsis and during dissertation as supporting documents.

**Study Design:** Prospective cohort study.

**Study Period:** A period of one and a half year between Jan 2020 to July 2021.

**Sample Size:** 53 cases

#### **SAMPLESIZE**

Sample size was determined based on

- When proportion with sepsis among AKI is 25%

#### Description

- The confidence level is estimated at 95%
- With a z-value of 1.96
- The confidence interval or margin of error is estimated at  $\pm 5$ , when proportion with sepsis among AKI is 25% Assuming  $p = 25\%$  and  $q = 75\%$   
 $n = p \times q \times [z/e]^2 = 53$

#### Inclusion Criteria

- All pregnant patients with acute kidney injury admitted to tertiary care hospital, Mysore.

#### Exclusion Criteria

All patients with previous history of

1. Hypertension
2. Diabetes mellitus
3. Renal disease

## **METHOD**

### **DATA COLLECTION**

- All patients with PRAKI attending our institution over a period of one and a half years were included in the study.
- Patients with pre-existing renal disease were excluded from the study.
- AKI: serum creatinine increased about 1.5 times from the baseline which is known to have occurred within prior seven days or increase in serum creatinine by  $>0.3 \text{ mg/dl}$  within 48 hours or when the urine output decreased to less than  $<0.5 \text{ ml/kg/hour}$  for six hours

#### Statistical Analysis

Data obtained from the study will be entered in excel sheets and it will be double checked. Data analyzed using SPSS software version 22.0 and will be presented as descriptive statistics in the form of frequency tables, figures and graphs.

**SAMPLESIZEESTIMATION**

Sample size is estimated based on the formula

$$n = \frac{p\% \times q\% \times [z/e\%]^2}{}$$

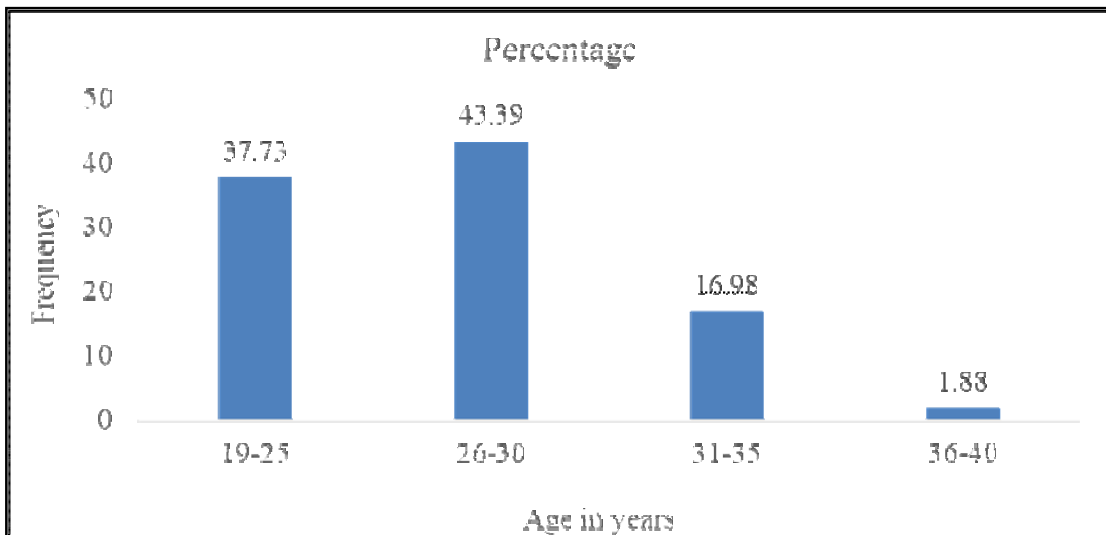
The confidence level is estimated at 95% with a z-value of 1.96. Confidence interval or margin of error is estimated at  $\pm 5$ , when proportion with sepsis among AKI is 25%. Assuming  $p\% = 25\%$  and  $q\% = 75\%$ .

n=53

**RESULTS**

**Table 1: Distribution of the study participants according to their age (N=53)**

Age group (years)	Number	Percentage
19-25	20	37.73
26-30	23	43.39
31-35	9	16.99
36-40	1	1.89
Total	53	100

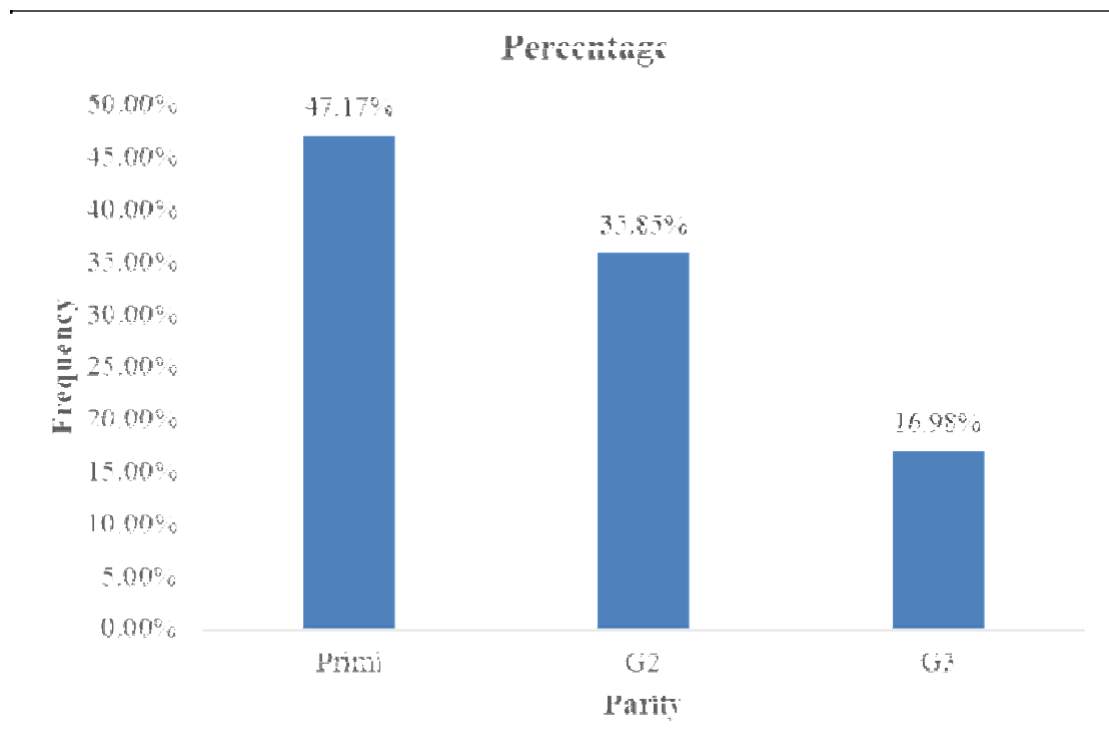


**Figure 1: Distribution of the study participants according to their age (N=53)**

Majority patients in our study was in age group 26-30 years (43.39%) and 19-25 years (37.73%), followed by 31-35 years (16.98%) and 36-40 years (1.88%).

Parity	Number	Percentage
Primi	25	47.17
G2	19	35.85
G3	9	16.98
Total	53	100

**Table2:DistributionofthestudyparticipantsaccordingtotheirParity(N=53)**

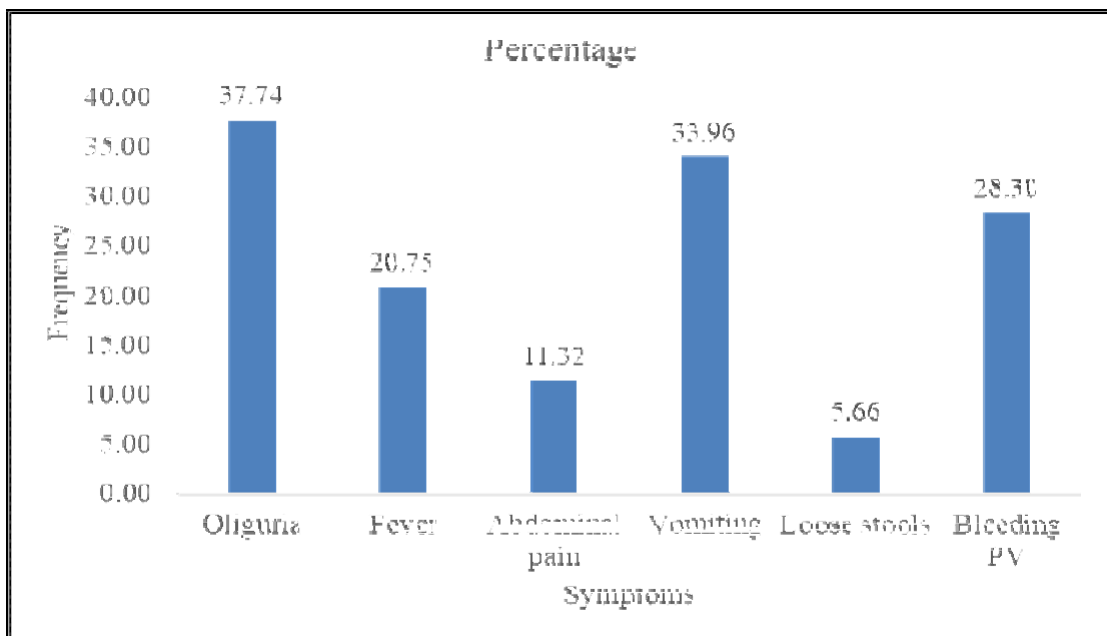


**Figure2:Distributionofthe studyparticipants accordingtotheirParity(N=53)**

Majority of patients in this study belonged to primi 47.17% and G 2 35.85% followed by G 3 16.78%.

**Table3:DistributionofthestudyparticipantsaccordingtotheirClinical symptoms (N=53)**

Clinical symptoms	Number	Percentage
Oliguria	20	37.74
Fever	11	20.75
Abdominalpain	6	11.32
Vomiting	18	33.96
Loose stools	3	5.66
Bleeding PV	15	28.30



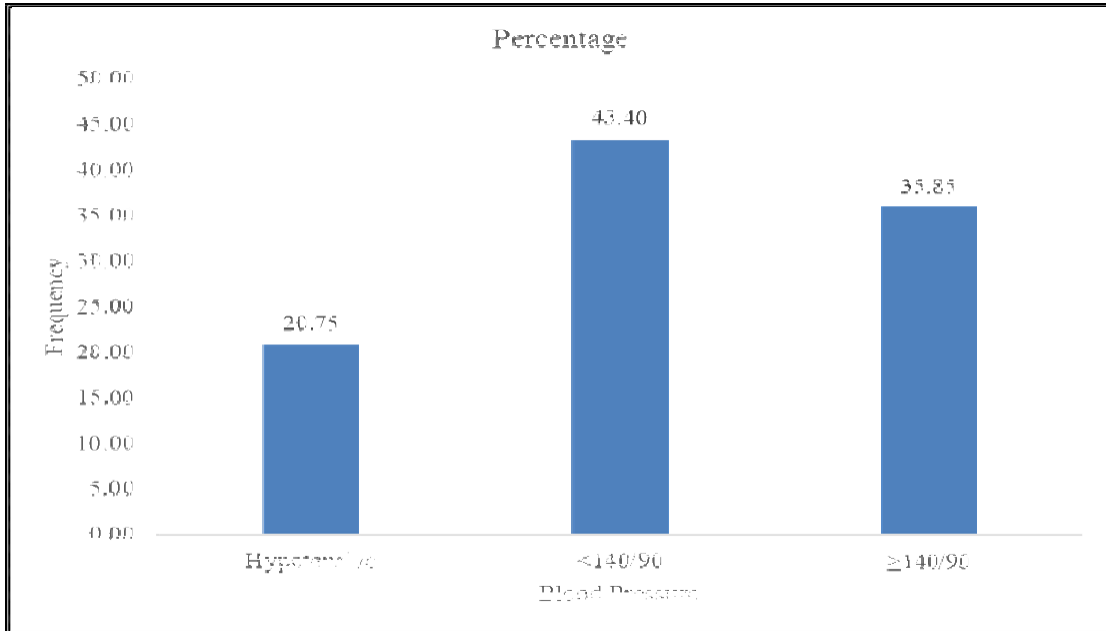
**Figure3:DistributionofthestudyparticipantsaccordingtotheirClinical symptoms (N=53)**

Majority of the patients in the study had oliguria as their major symptom (37.74%), followed by vomiting (33.96%), bleeding PV (28.3%), and fever (20.75%) whereas the least common symptom being loose stools.

**Table4:DistributionofthestudyparticipantsaccordingtotheirBloodPressure(N=53)**

Bloodpressure	Number	Percentage
Hypotensive	11	20.75
<140/90	23	43.40

≥140/90	19	35.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>



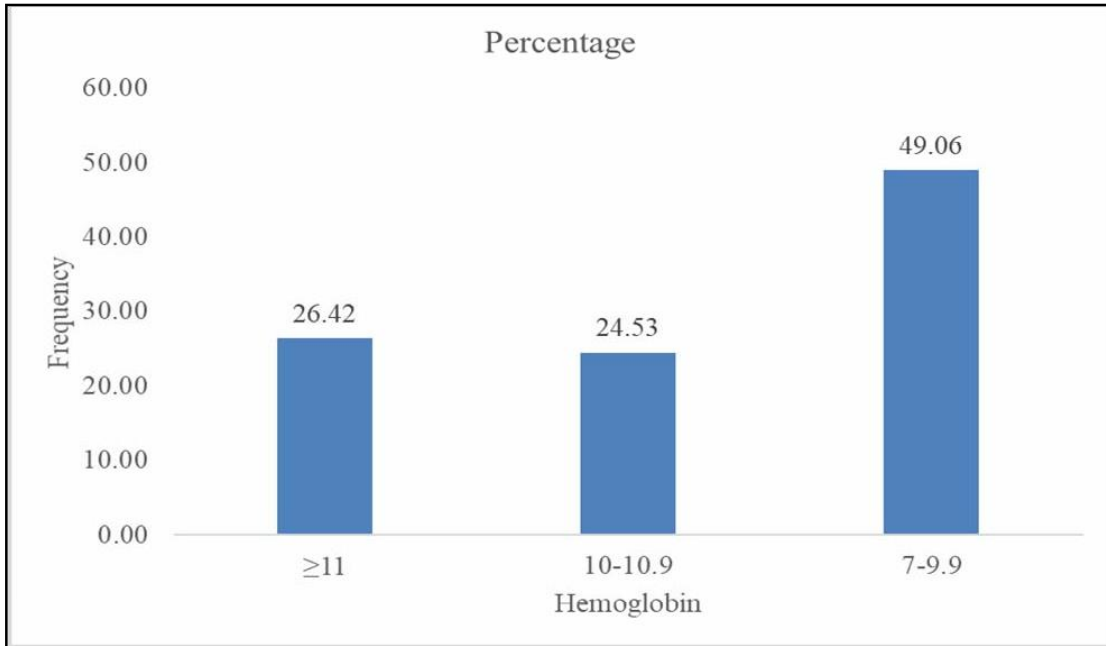
**Figure4:DistributionofthestudyparticipantsaccordingtotheirBlood Pressure (N=53)**

Majority of the patients in the study were normotensive (43.4%), followed by 35.85% of the participants being hypertensive.

**Table5:DistributionofthestudyparticipantsaccordingtotheirHemoglobinlevels(N=53)**

Hemoglobin(g/dL)	Number	Percentage
≥11	14	26.42
10-10.9	13	24.53
7-9.9	26	49.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>



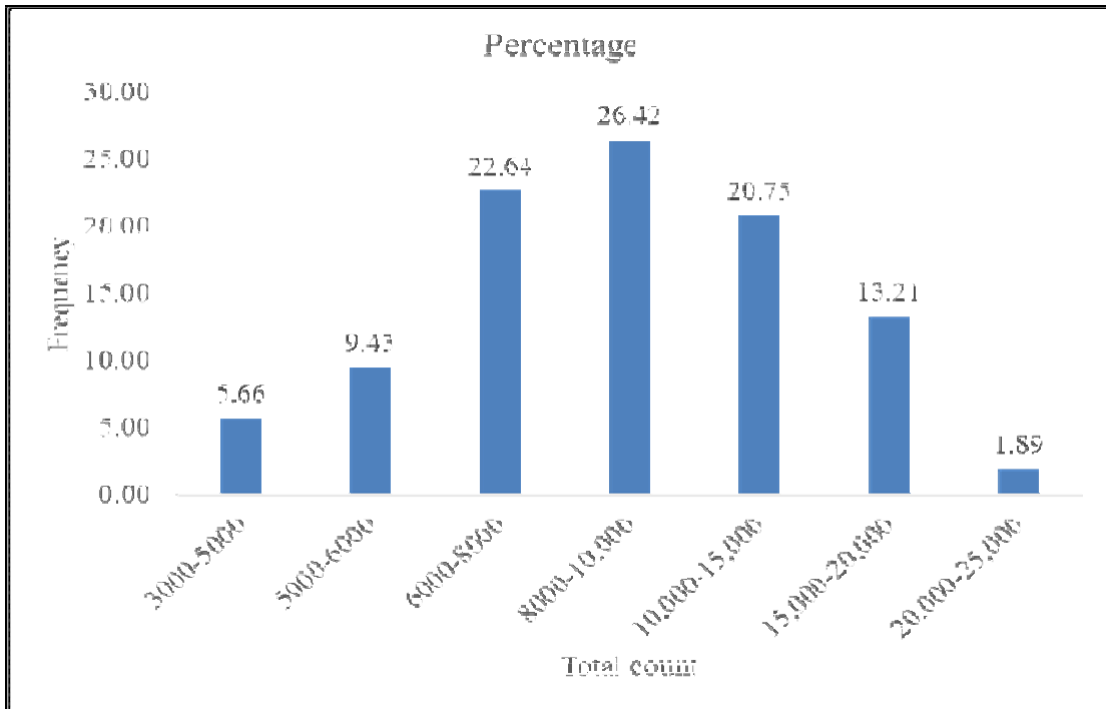


**Figure5: Distribution of the study participants according to their Hemoglobin levels (N=53)**

Majority of the patients in the study were anemic with hemoglobin being in the range of 7-9.9 (49.06%).

**Table6: Distribution of the study participants according to their Total count (N=53)**

Total count(/cumm)	Number	Percentage
3000-5000	3	5.66
5000-6000	5	9.43
6000-8000	12	22.64
8000-10,000	14	26.42
10,000-15,000	11	20.75
15,000-20,000	7	13.21
20,000-25,000	1	1.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

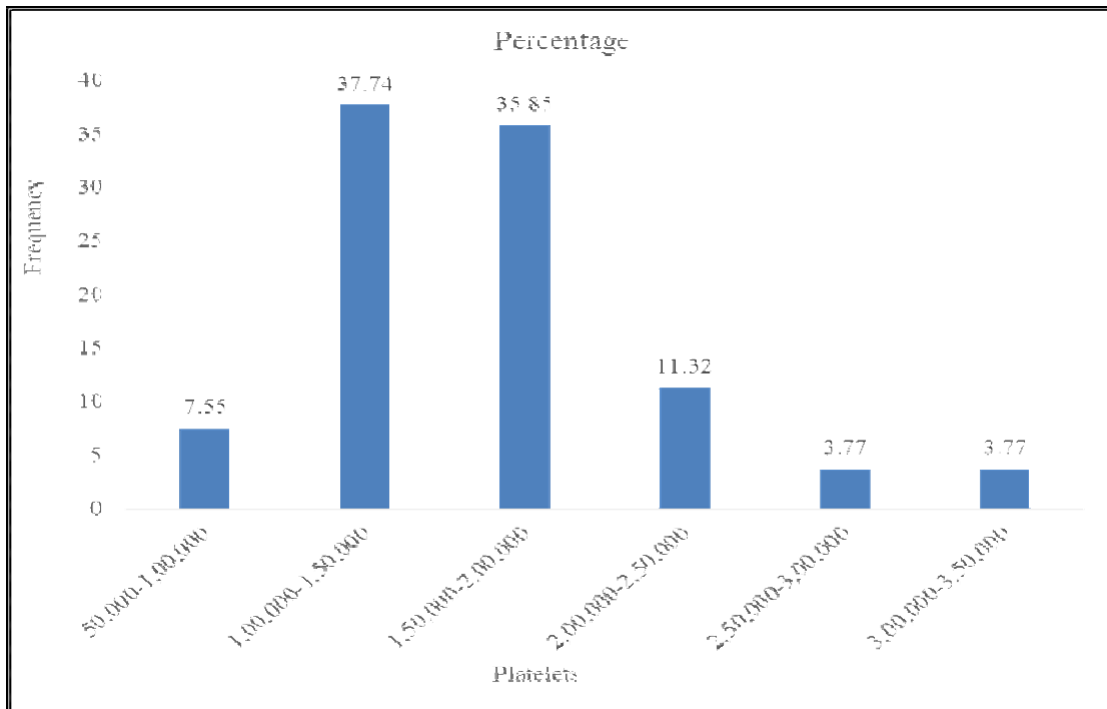


**Figure 6: Distribution of the study participants according to their Total Count (N=53)**

Majority of the patients had blood counts within normal range 3000-10,000 (64.15%), whereas 35.85% of the participants had elevated blood counts level.

**Table 7: Distribution of the study participants according to their Platelet count (N=53)**

Platelets(/cumm)	Number	Percentage
50,000-1,00,000	4	7.55
1,00,000-1,50,000	20	37.74
1,50,000-2,00,000	19	35.85
2,00,000-2,50,000	6	11.32
2,50,000-3,00,000	2	3.77
3,00,000-3,50,000	2	3.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

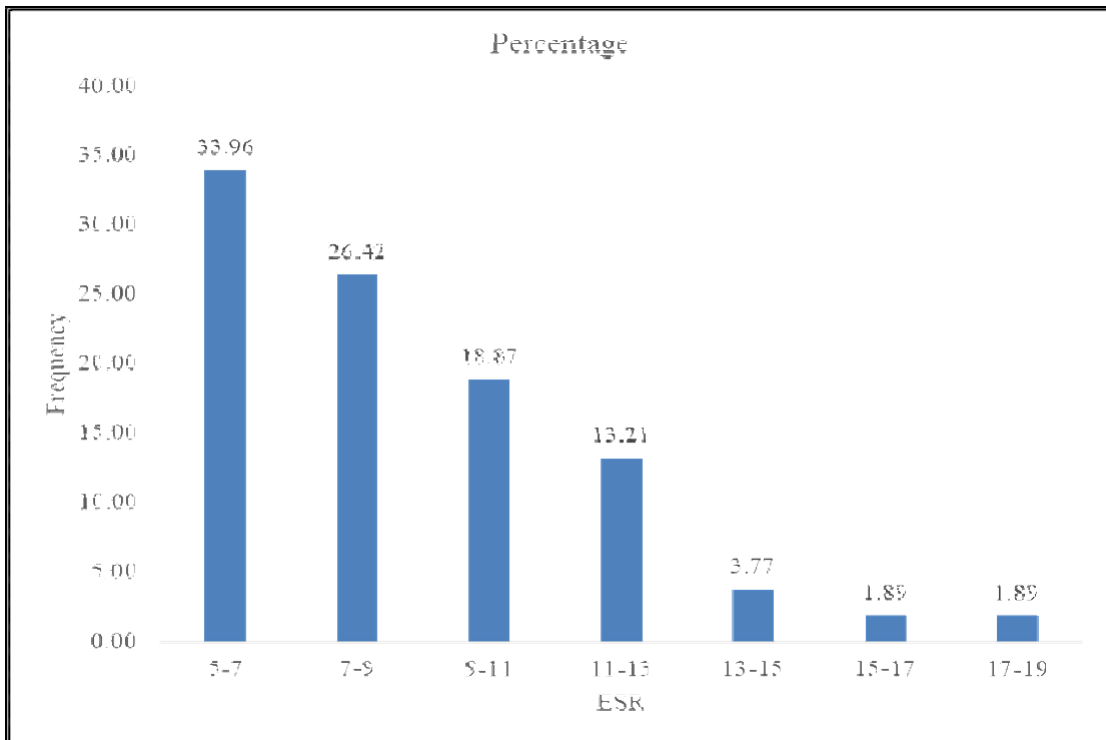


**Figure7:DistributionofthestudyparticipantsaccordingtotheirPlatelet count (N=53)**

The study participants showed no evidence of thrombocytopenia in the study, although majority of patients had platelet count within 1,00,000-1,50,000(37.74%), followed by platelets counts within the range of 1,50,000-2,00,000(35.85%). The least number of patients had platelet count within the reference range of 2,50,000-3,00,000 & 3,00,000-3,50,000(3.77% in each group)

**Table8:DistributionofthestudyparticipantsaccordingtotheirESRLevels (N=53)**

ESR	Number	Percentage
5-7	18	35.6
7-9	14	31.1
9-11	10	15.6
11-13	7	4.4
13-15	2	8.9
15-17	1	2.2
17-19	1	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

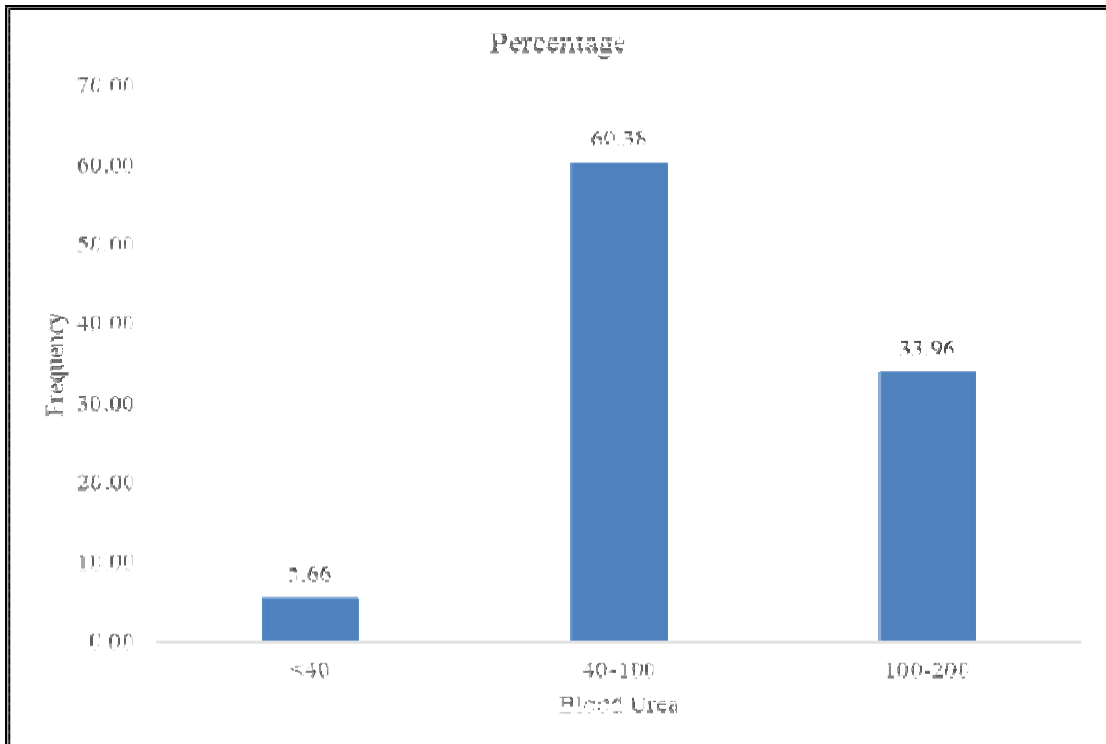


**Figure 8: Distribution of the study participants according to their ESR Levels (N=53)**

Majority of the patients in the study had no evidence of elevated ESR.

**Table 9: Distribution of the study participants according to their Urea levels (N=53)**

Blood Urea (mg/dl)	Number	Percentage
<40	3	5.66
40-100	32	60.38
100-200	18	33.96
<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	

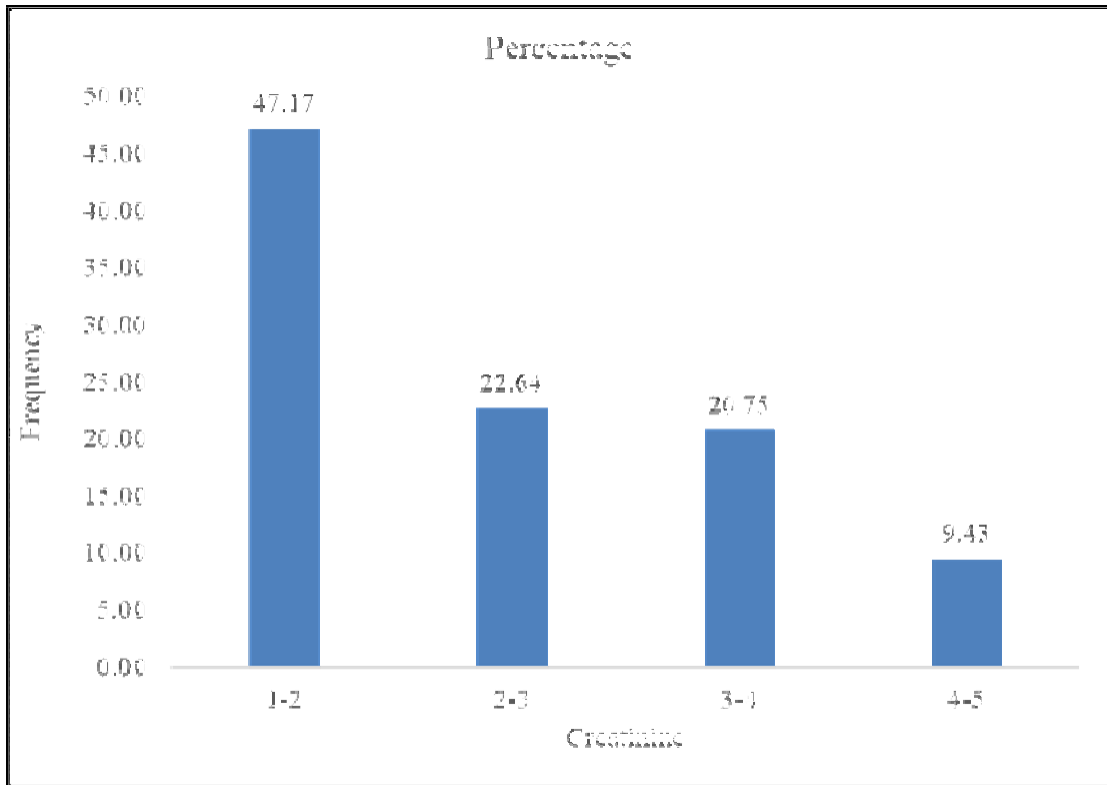


**Figure 9: Distribution of the study participants according to their Urea levels(N=53)**

Majority of the patients in the study had elevated urea levels between 40-100 (60.38%), followed by urea levels within 100-200(33.96%), whereas only 5.66% of study participants had normal urea levels

**Table 10: Distribution of the study participants according to their Blood creatinine levels (N=53)**

Blood Creatinine(mg/dl)	Number	Percentage
1-2	25	47.17
2-3	12	22.64
3-4	11	20.75
4-5	5	9.44
Total	53	100

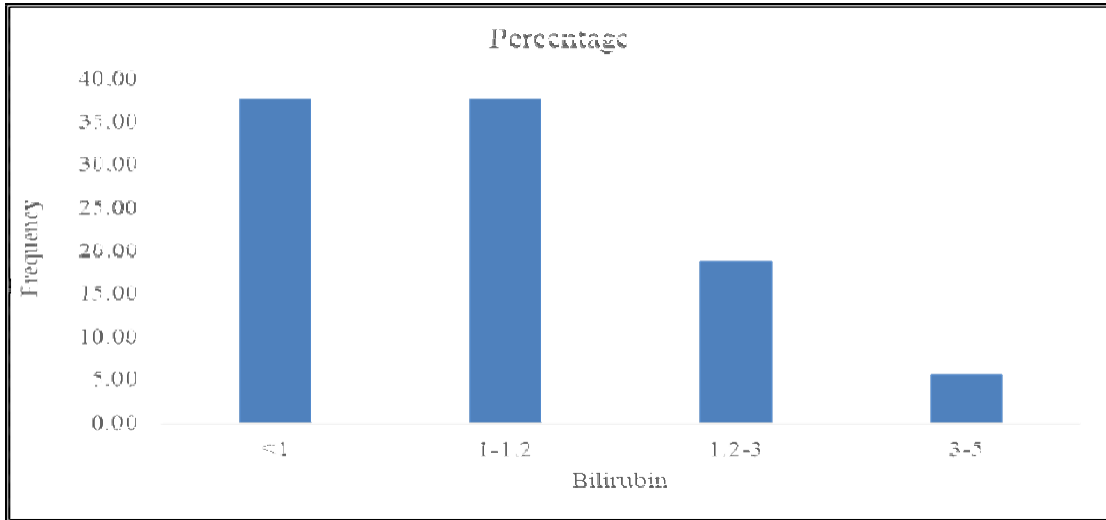


**Figure 10: Distribution of the study participants according to their Blood creatinine levels (N=53)**

Majority of the patients in the study had elevated serum creatinine level of 1-2 (47.17%), followed by 2-3 (22.64%), 3-4 (20.75%). Only 9.44% of study participants had creatinine values within the range of 4-5.

**Table 11: Distribution of the study participants according to their Bilirubin levels (N=53)**

Total Bilirubin mg/dl	Number	Percentage
<1	20	37.74
1-1.2	20	37.74
1.2-3	10	18.87
3-5	3	5.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

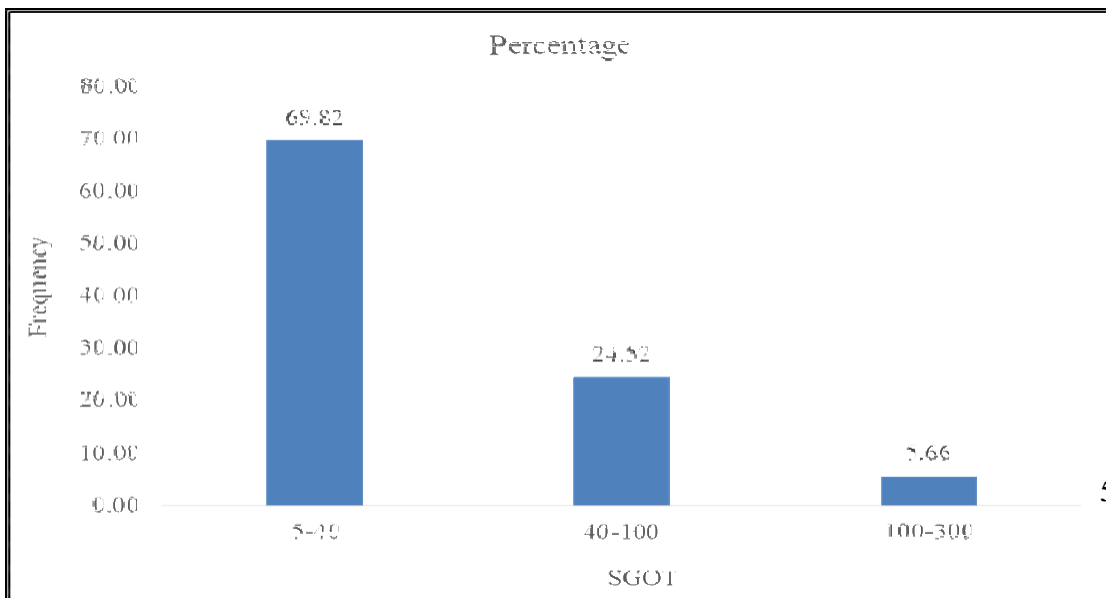


**Figure 11: Distribution of the study participants according to their Bilirubin levels (N=53)**

Majority of the patients in the study had bilirubin levels <1 and 1-1.2 (37.74% each), followed by 1.2-3 (18.87%), and within 3-5 (5.66%).

**Table 12: Distribution of study participants according to their SGOT Levels (N=53)**

SGOT(U/L)	Number	Percentage
5-40	37	69.82
40-100	13	24.52
100-300	3	5.66
Total	53	100

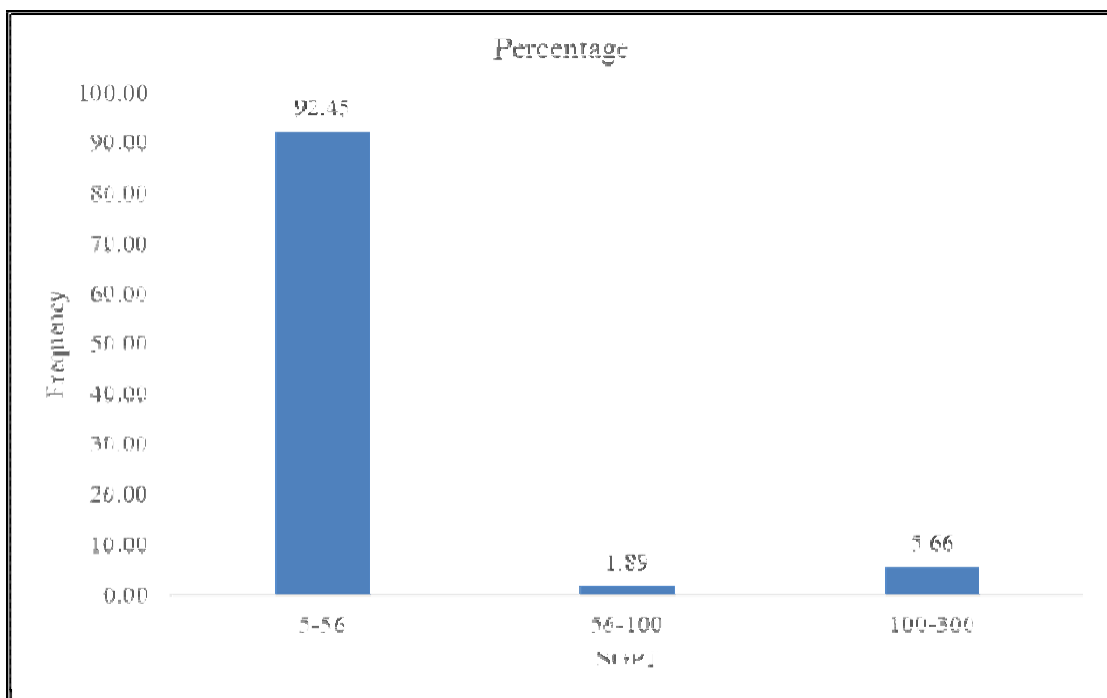


**Figure 12: Distribution of study participants according to their SGOT Levels (N=53)**

Majority of patients had no elevated liver enzymes levels (69.82%), whereas 24.52% and 5.66% of patients had elevated SGOT levels elevated between 40-100 and 100-300 respectively.

**Table 13: Distribution of the study participants according to their SGPT Levels (N=53)**

SGPT(U/L)	Number	Percentage
5-56	49	92.45
56-100	1	1.89
100-300	3	5.66
Total	53	100



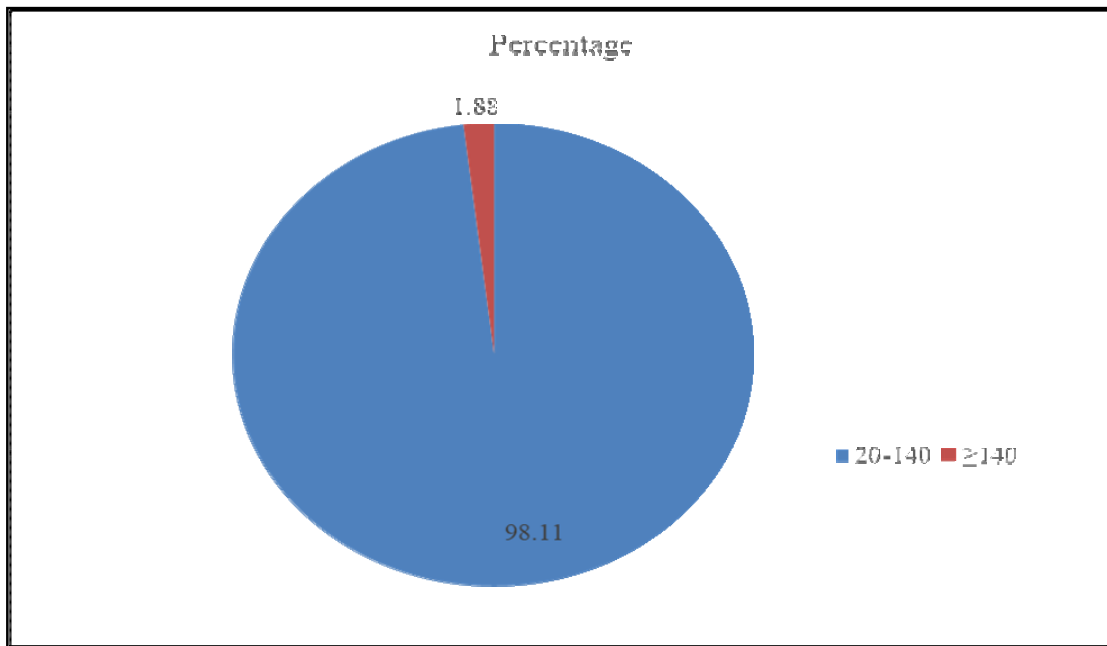
**Figure 13: Distribution of the study participants according to their SGPT Levels (N=53)**

Majority of the patients in the study had serum SGPT levels within 5-56 (92.45%), whereas 1% and 3% of study participants had elevated SGOT levels within 56-100 and within 100-300 respectively



**Table14:Distributionofthestudyparticipantsaccordingtotheir ALP Levels (N=53)**

ALP(U/L)	Number	Percentage
20-140	52	98.11
≥140	1	1.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>



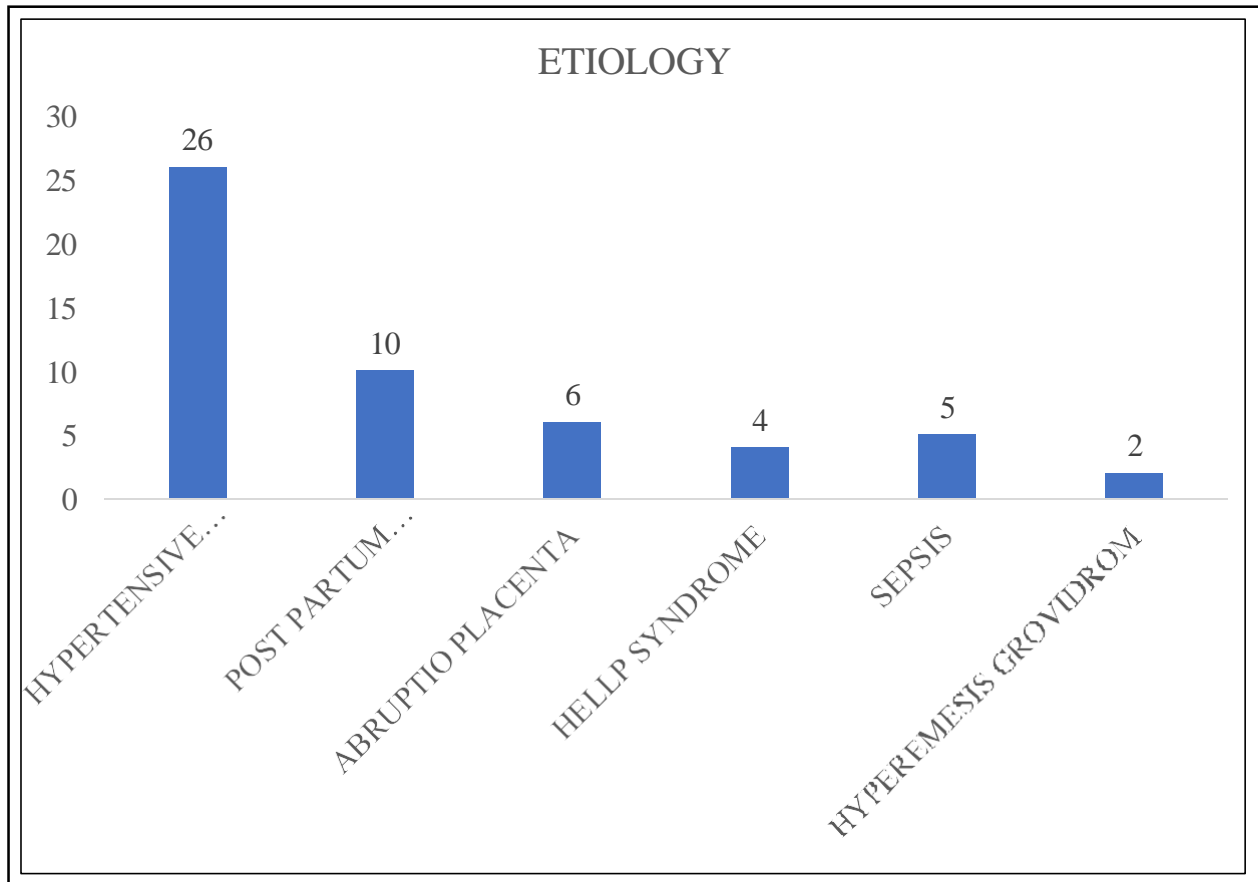
**Figure14:Distributionofthestudyparticipantsaccordingtotheir ALP levels (N=53)**

MajorityoftheparticipantsinthestudyhadnoelevatedALPlevelswhileonly 1.88% (1 study participant) had ALP levels >140.

**Table15:Etiologyofacutekidneyinjury**

Etiology frequency	Maternal
Hypertensive disorders	26
Post partum heamorrhage	10
Abruptio placenta	6
HELLP syndrome	4
Sepsis	5

Hyperemesisgravidarum	2
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**Figure15: Etiology of acute kidney injury**

Majority of patients had AKI etiology being hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (26 participants), followed by 10 participants with etiology of post partum haemorrhage, abruptio placenta being the etiology in 6 participants, sepsis in 5 participants, HELLP syndrome and hyperemesis gravidarum in 4 and 2 participants respectively.

**Table16: Maternal outcome**

Outcome	Number	Treatment	Total
Recovered	48	Supportive measures	41
		Dialysis	7
Death	5	Dialysis done	3
		Not done due to hemodynamic instability	2

## DISCUSSION

**Table17: Comparison of age distribution with other studies**

	<b>Current study</b>	<b>Mahesh Puri et al<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Gopalkrishna et al<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Godara et al<sup>9</sup></b>
Total	53	165	130	57
Age	26	25	28	22

The table shows a comparison between the current study with other studies for the mean age of the total number of patients. The current study has a total of 53 patients with a mean age of 26 while the study by Mahesh Puri et al had a total of 165 patients with a mean age of 25. The study by Gopalkrishna et al had 130 patients with a mean age of 28 and Godara et al had 57 patients with a mean age of 22.

**Table18: Comparison of parity with other studies**

	<b>Current study</b>	<b>Mahesh Puri et al<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Krishna et al<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>Godara et al<sup>9</sup></b>
Total	53	165	98	57
parity	Primi	Primi	Gravida 2	Gravida 2

Table 19 shows the comparison of parity of our study with other studies. Our study with 53 patients had a mean parity of primi pregnancies. Mahesh et al had similar results. Studies by Krishna et al and Godara et al showed the mean parity to be Gravida 2 pregnancies.

**Table19: Comparison of cause of AKI with other studies**

	<b>Current study</b>	<b>Gopalkrishna et al<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Prakash Jet al<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>Godara et al<sup>9</sup></b>
Total	53	130	132	57

Most common	Pre eclampsia	Sepsis	Pre eclampsia	Sepsis
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Table 20 compares cause of AKI in our study with other studies. The most common cause of AKI in our study and the study by Prakash J et al was pre eclampsia. The most common cause of AKI in the studies by Gopalkrishna et al and Godara et al was Sepsis.

## CONCLUSION

Pregnancy related acute kidney injury (PRAKI) is a majority clinical challenge because it poses a risk to 2 lives mother and fetus. It is largely due to preventable obstetrical complications, but can be caused by certain pregnancy specific diseases. Pregnancy hypertensive complications, like preeclampsia are the leading cause of PRAKI. Puerperal sepsis and obstetrical hemorrhage still account for AKI in the postpartum period in addition to PE/HELLP syndrome. The implementation of specific intervention for the prevention and management of sepsis and hypertensive complications in pregnant women may decrease the burden of PRAKI.

Fortunately, with ongoing improvements in obstetrical care, multidisciplinary approaches, and new insights into the diagnosis and management of associated conditions such as preeclampsia, maternal and perinatal mortality in this setting are largely avoidable.

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