

Additional File 2.

Comments made in a sample of mothers from each of the 4 hospitals on FHR monitoring by them during labour including young age, babies born with low Apgar scores, support given to mothers by midwives.

Maternal age Years	Additional info	Mother's words
	Young mothers Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes	
15	Vacuum for prolonged 2 nd stage. Apgar 7,10	My stomach was hurting me but I was listening to my baby heart sound. Your thank you.
16	NVD Apgar 9,10	It was fine for me to listen to my own baby. The only thing that was giving me hard time was the pain.
17	NVD Apgar 8,10	The power of God is great. i was able to check my unborn baby heart beat).. No problem, my baby is normal. Thank God for the power that he give me.
16	NVD Apgar 9,10	I felt fine checking my baby. Thanks God for the power giving me to check my baby and my baby is save.
14	NVD Apgar 8,10	I thank God so much he making me strong doing my monitoring thank for my baby life. This new program is very good even though it can be difficult at the end
16	NBVD Apgar 9,10	I am so happy for the power God give me to monitor my baby heart beat and thanks to the midwife and head of this program. My baby is save and fine.
	Babies born with low Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes	
21	Preterm breech Apgar 1,2	The monitoring help me in labour. It never cause me any harm. I monitoring and I make that it is normal. It did not cause me any problem.
35	Unassisted vaginal delivery following change in FHR. Apgar 4,7	I see the baby breathing program to be very good one. I say it good because the time my baby was not breathing good I call the doctor woman and tell her that the way the thing was sounding it's not

		sounding like that again and they help me.
21	Rapid, unassisted, vaginal delivery following change in fetal heart rate. Apgar 3,5	I see the monitoring to be very good. It was a great experience to have my baby monitor. It help me because I knew my baby was living and I will carry my baby home. It don't cause any problem for me.
17	Caesarean section for obstructed labour. Apgar 5,7	I feel good about listening to my baby breathing while it was in my stomach. It helps me a lot because I stay long in pain but when my baby breathing pattern start to change the midwife and doctor were informed and they did what they could to help me
28	Unassisted vaginal delivery. Episiotomy. Apgar 3,6	I thankful to God for the monitoring it help me. I listen to my unborn baby heart beat it make me happy and I have my baby with me even though my baby did not cry right away but I saw my baby on the baby ward and he is doing well
20	Caesarean section. Apgar 5,7	I want to tell God thankyou. I was able to listen to my own baby heart beat. When the pain was getting strong I was not able again. But I am happy for my baby my baby is alive. And thankyou for all the help
	Supportive role of midwives Apgar scores at 1 and 5 minutes	
18	Unassisted vaginal delivery. Apgar 8,10	It was fine doing this but I was very uncomfortable. I continue it because you was talking to me
24	Unassisted vaginal delivery. Apgar 9,10	It hard to do because the pain not easy my stomach was hurting bad way but since you talking to me that why I do it. But it not bad that good thing.
29	Unassisted vaginal delivery. Apgar 8,10	During my labour I was told to do my baby heart beat I was able to listen to the midwife and I have my baby with me. Thank God I was able with all the pain
35	Unassisted vaginal delivery. Apgar 8,10	Many thanks to the midwives for listening to me they provide care for me. The monitoring was good it help me feel closer to my baby
32	Caesarean section. Apgar 9,10	I enjoy the monitoring, it was fine at first but there was too much

		pain for me. I tell the midwife. Thank all I have my baby with me
16	Unassisted vaginal delivery. Apgar 8,10	I thank God for the midwife and the cares that they give me that make to know how to check my baby heart beat. My baby and I are doing good.

Mothers' comments about monitoring their own babies during labour In Martha Tubman Memorial Hospital, Grand Gedeh County.

Comments	Total	Positive	Negative	N/A to monitoring	Pain – able to continue monitoring	Pain-unable to continue
	78	75	1	2	31	6

Examples of comments

“This new thing, that my first time to see it and do it, it is good for us because sometimes we big belly in pain can be plenty so we will help our big belly doctors to listen to our own baby heart sound, your thank you for it and like it no problem inside because me and my baby alright, god thank you.

This new thing you bring in this hospital it is good, but the pain was too hard, the only thing that make me happy since I was born and been loving my children this is the first time for me to hear my own baby heart sound in my stomach, my people thank you, let it please be here all the time.

This new thing was very hard to do because of the pain but thank God that I myself was able to hear my baby heart beating in my stomach and your thank you too, because me and my baby are alright, please keep doing this new in this hospital so all our children born here will be alright all the time.

It was very very good to do as a midwife I know that if this is done in all the clinics in Grand Gedeh county all our babies will not die from birth asphyxia. I really appreciate your new method you taught me to do as a midwife I never knew that this would be done by myself.

Our ma I tell you thank you for what you did for me today, I was always happy to bear the pain because you always told me that my baby was breathing good. I was not able to do it myself because it was my first time and the pain was too strong for me.

I fine this new thing very very good because today I learn a new thing that had to do with hearing my own baby heartbeat in my stomach. This new idea made me to even forget about stomach pain. Know problem during this new thing because I was happy that I was going to born my baby alive. Your thanks a lot may God bless everyone.

Tellewoyan Hospital, mothers' comments re FHR monitoring

Total comments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Not relevant to FHR monitoring	Too much pain to continue
125 (123 relevant to monitoring)	123	0	0	2	8

Comments

“My sister the monitoring was good because I was able to monitor my own baby heartbeat to know the good heart beat and the bad heartbeat. This monitoring did not cause any problem for me and my baby. It help to save my baby.

Thanks to our big big people for this program. If this program was not available my baby would have died or something bad may have happen to me. I was to beg the big big people who came with this program to please continue because the program is really helpful to mothers who are borning babies.

I started monitoring my babies heart beats and I was very happy of it but I could not continue because the midwife said that my second baby was not in a good position so she helped me in monitoring of my baby until I was taken to the operating room. I thanks.

I find the monitoring very good and it help me with my labour because I am alive. It dd not cause any problem for me the only problem was my baby came out very depressed but I thank God for life. The people help me doing my labour.

I am very grateful for the monitoring because it has brought comfort and reduces stress. It help me understand my baby heartbeat. I pray that the service continue.

Thank God that learn new thing by listening to my baby heartbeat. It give me strong and made me so proud of what I was doing. I appreciate the organisation that brought such a unique program.

The monitoring was fine with me it did not cause me any problem. To tell you the truth this is one of the best service that have enter the hospital. I pray that it will continue.

This monitoring was fine with me it did not cause me any problem. To tell you the true when asking me to do this monitoring I thought that you did not want to do your work in the hospital but when I started to hear my own baby heart beat it made me happy.”