

Status of Medical Liability Claims In Saudi Arabia

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Scope of the Problem

Evolution in Health Care Services

- Upgrading Technology
- Training & Gained experience of Medical staff

Increased number of Medical Claims

- ↑ Population Census
- ↑ Awareness about Health matters



Handling of the Problem

*Formulate and to set standards and regulations
that determine the responsibilities of health
care providers (**Facility/ Physicians**)
towards patients*

Medico-Legal Committee

Role:

Carries the responsibility of receiving claims and investigating the professional malpractice that resulted in either morbidity or mortality

Number & Locations:

*8 Subcommittees,
Covering various regions of KSA*



Process of Medical Litigation

- A **Claim from the patient or his/her Representative** towards a medical malpractice (*from his view*)
- The **Claim directed** either to MOH or City government
- Investigation within the **medical facility** encountered in claim
- The **MLC** then assigned to follow with a process of thorough review of all documents and medical filling together with interviewing both sides of the claim- the plaintiff and defendant
- Reach a **Final Decision** of accusation or clearance from the claim according to the “Regulations of Medical Practice“ which is based on . Professional aspects
 . Governed by Islamic Shariaah law

Professional liability

The Civil liability:

This is the responsibility of a physician towards the patient when harm being inflicted as a result of direct action against medical rules from the physician or proven negligence.

The Punitive liability:

That deals with physicians who violate the rules and regulations of medical practice even with no subsequent harm resulted to the patient.

The Disciplinary liability:

Where a physician failed to meet with professional standards, requirements and ethics .

Final Decision (Verdict)

I - Clearance from the claim

II - Accusation

- *Warning*
- *Financial Compensation*
- *Prohibiting medical practice*
- *Medical License withdrawal*
- *Imprisonment*

Data Analysis

Studied Period 5 years

(1420 H – 1424 H) / (1999 – 2003)

Retrospective Analysis of Raw Data

Official documentation of the MLC

Aim of the Work

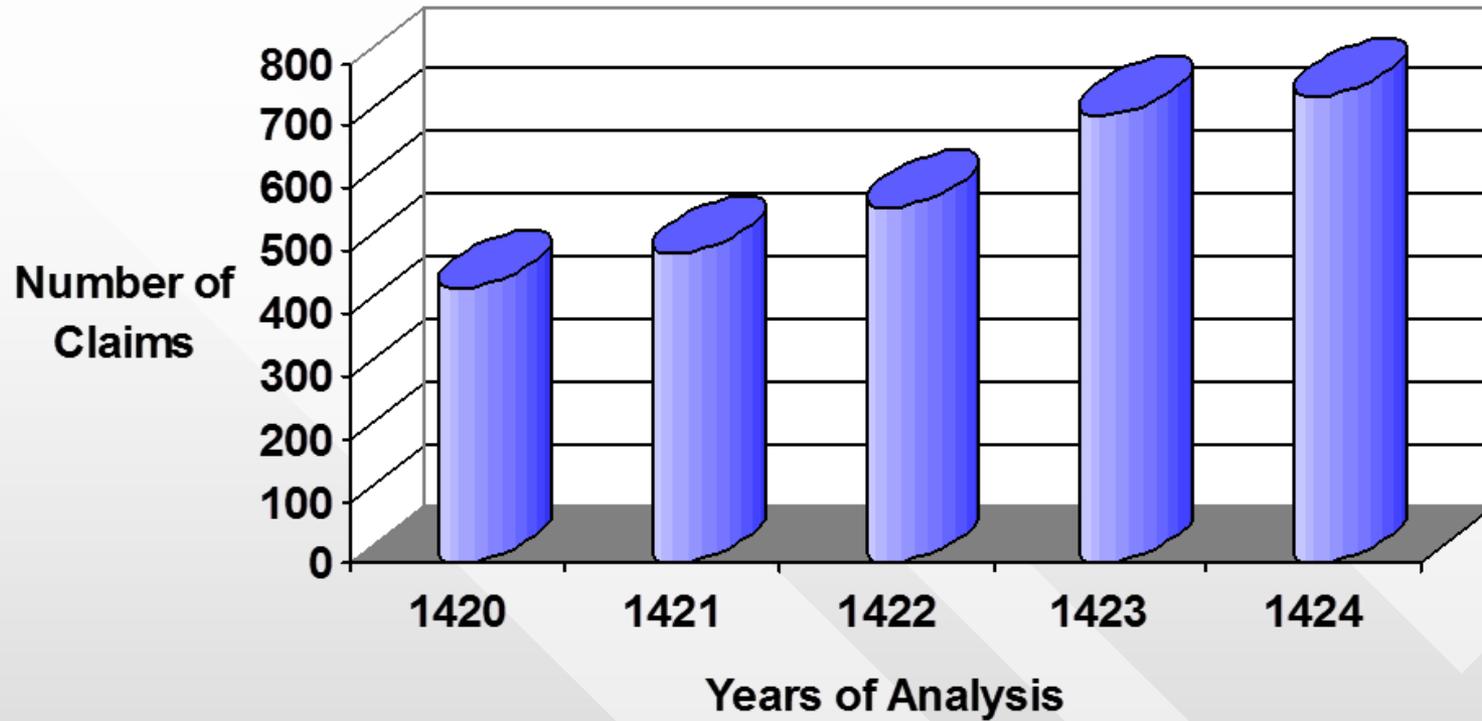
Incidence of Claims towards

I- Study period of analysis

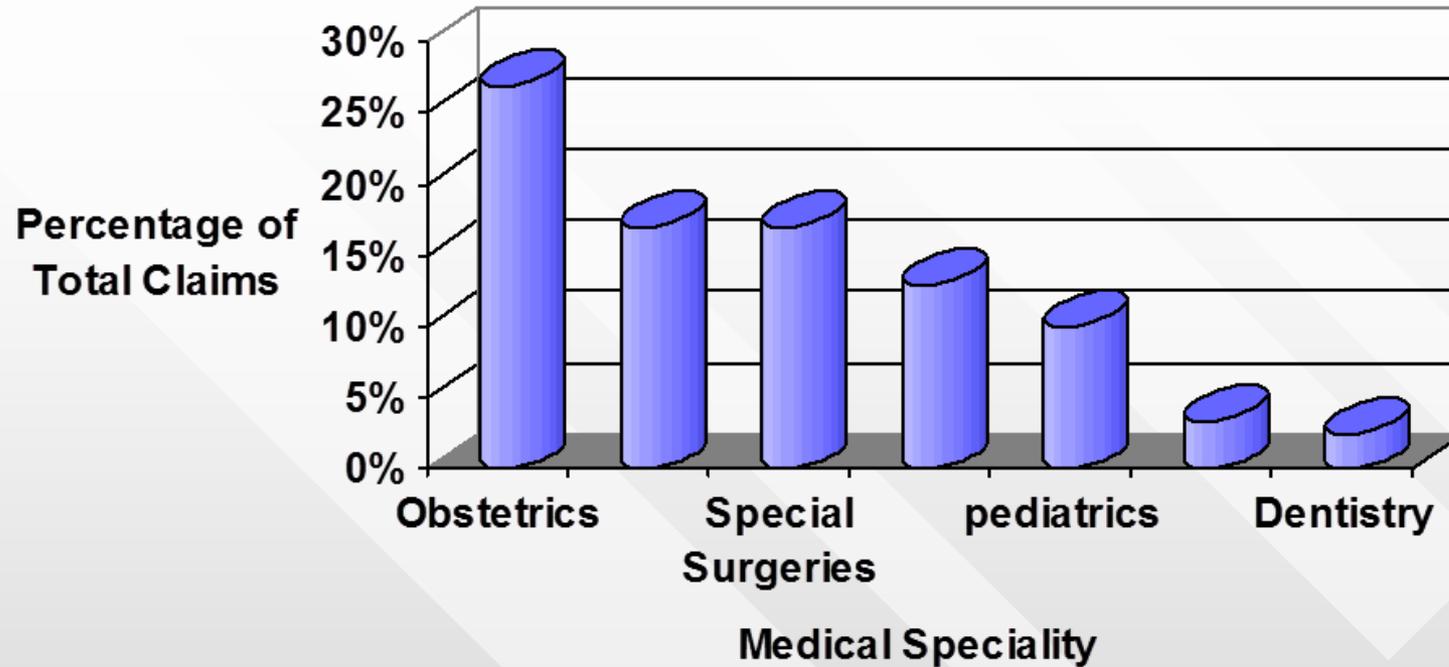
II- Medical Specialty

III- Sector of Health Care Facility

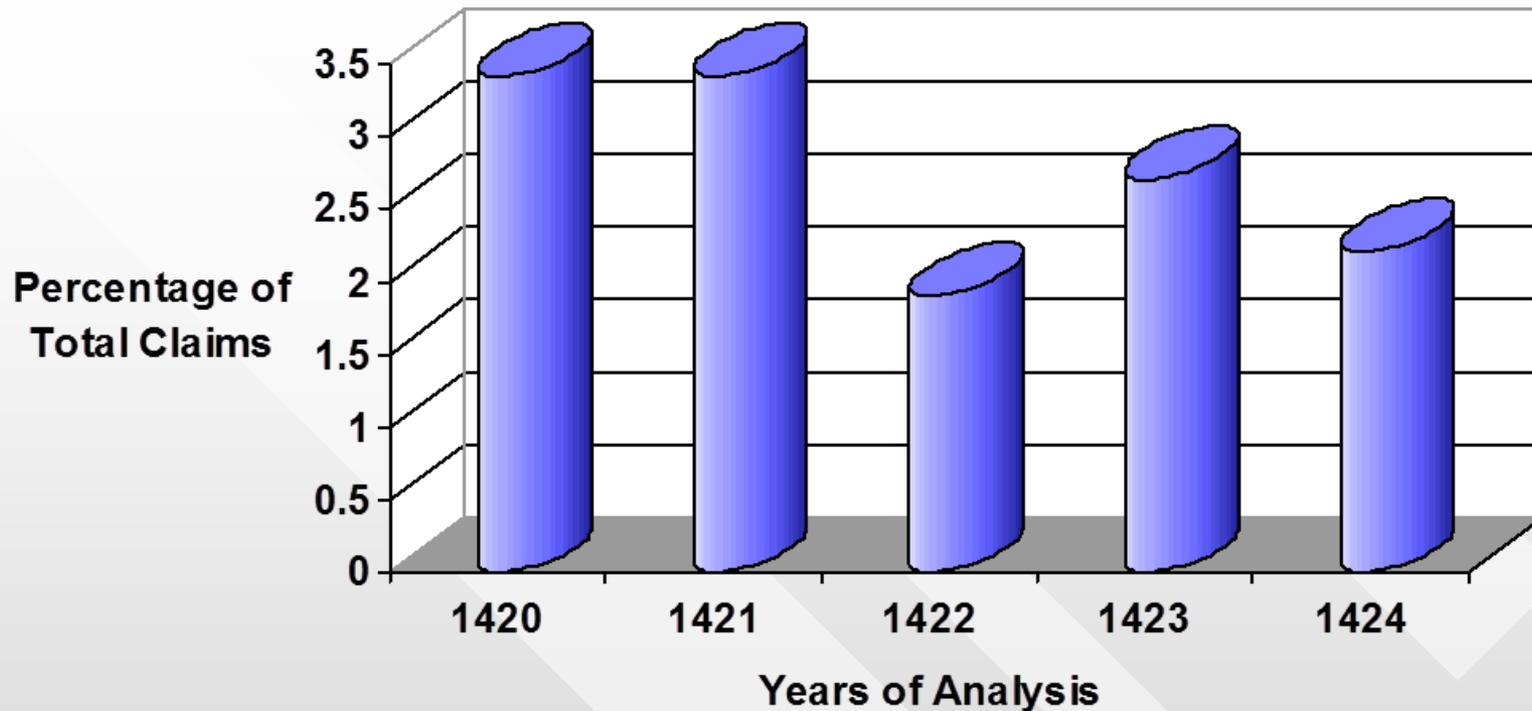
IV- Geographical Distribution over KSA



The Trend of the total number of claims in different medical specialties



The percentage of claims in different Medical Specialties



*The Percentage and Trend of **Anaesthesia related Malpractice Claims** to the Total number referred in different Medical Specialties.*

	1420	1421	1422	1423	1424
<i>Ministry of Health Medical Services</i>	111	100	123	188	188
<i>Private Sector Medical Services</i>	124	123	123	169	144
<i>Military Medical Services</i>	16	13	14	17	12
<i>University Medical Services</i>	5	1	6	6	3
<i>Other Medical Services</i>	9	18	5	13	6

***Sector of the Medical Health Care
service***

	1420	1421	1422	1423	1424
<i>Riyadh</i>	88	67	47	48	54
<i>Makka Al- Mokkaama</i>	11	31	39	65	37
<i>Eastern Region</i>	29	25	44	31	34
<i>Madina Al- Monawara</i>	33	27	11	42	13
<i>Aseer</i>	30	14	23	24	36
<i>Qassim</i>	12	22	12	12	21
<i>Holy Capital</i>	---	---	---	53	61
<i>Ehsaa</i>	---	---	---	10	14

***Distribution of the Convicted decisions
over Saudi Arabia different Regions***

Personal Advice

- *Assess your **Patient** Thoroughly*
- *Estimate accurately the **Risk** and discuss it with the patient*
- *Clear **Documentation** of every detail in date & time*
- *Update your **Professional Knowledge***
- *Encourage **Educational Activities** (Audits, M&Ms,....etc)*
- *In case encountered in an **INCIDENT** (Subject for Interrogation)*
 - *Review the whole case filling & records*
 - *Quote relevant literature*
 - *Provide testimony in writing highlighting specific events*

*When you are certain that the consequences
of an error is disastrous
...so it is of logic to be too careful*

*No one is immune against pitfalls and mishaps,
so let us pray to Allah to provide us
with his protection and mercy
and give us the strength and ability
to serve our patients*

Thank You