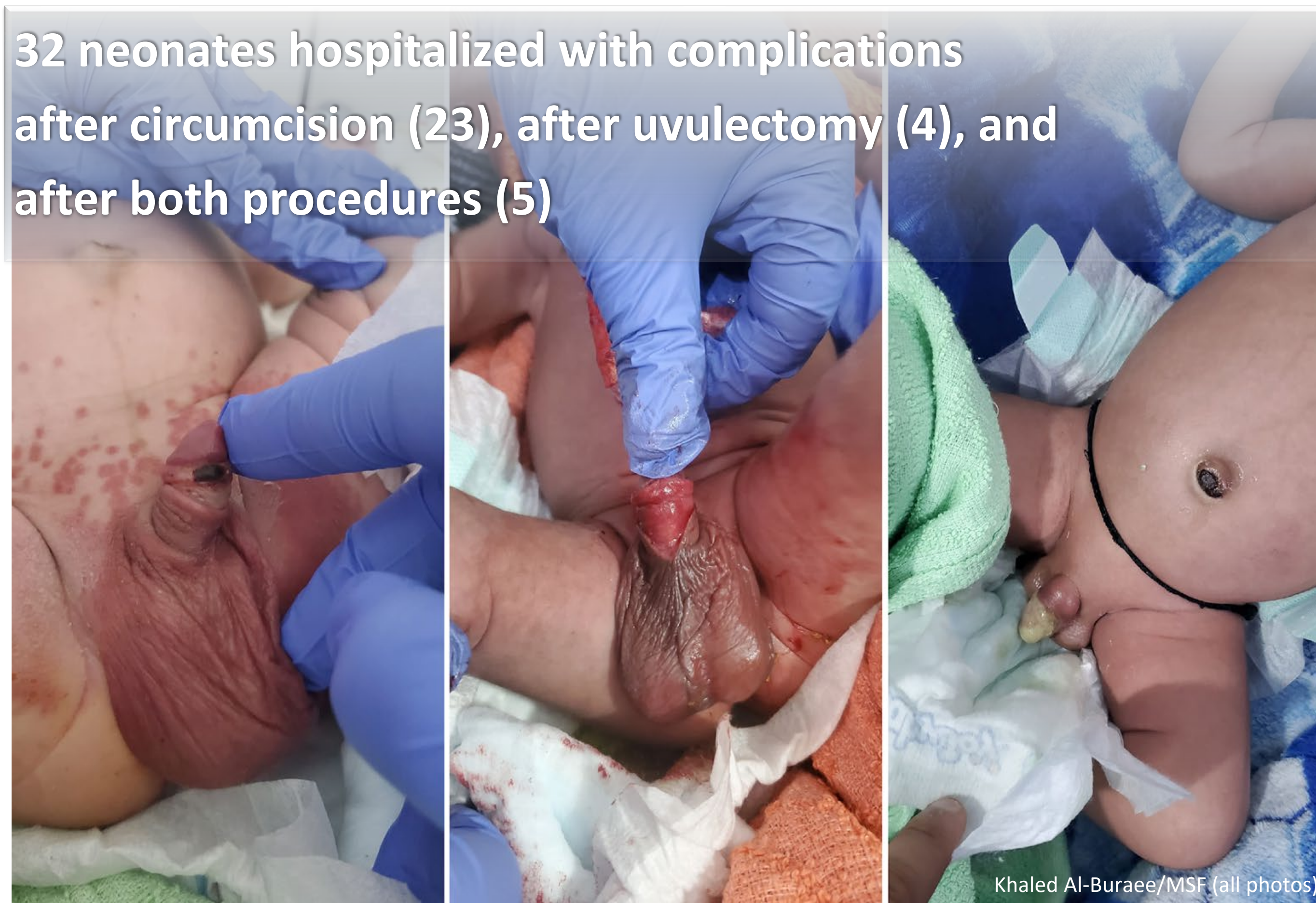


Complications related to traditional surgeries caused significant neonatal morbidities of bleeding and sepsis

Neonatal hospitalizations following traditional surgical practices: A retrospective analysis of the frequency, complications and outcomes at Al Qanawis Mother & Child Hospital

Background: Traditional surgeries – circumcision and uvulectomy - are often performed in poor hygienic conditions and can cause serious complications. Yet, evidence from the Middle East - particularly among neonates - is limited. At Al Qanawis Mother and Child Hospital in Yemen, neonates are observed to be admitted with complications following circumcision or uvulectomy procedures. The study aims to describe the most common clinical complications among these admissions during the period from January 2024 to March 2025.

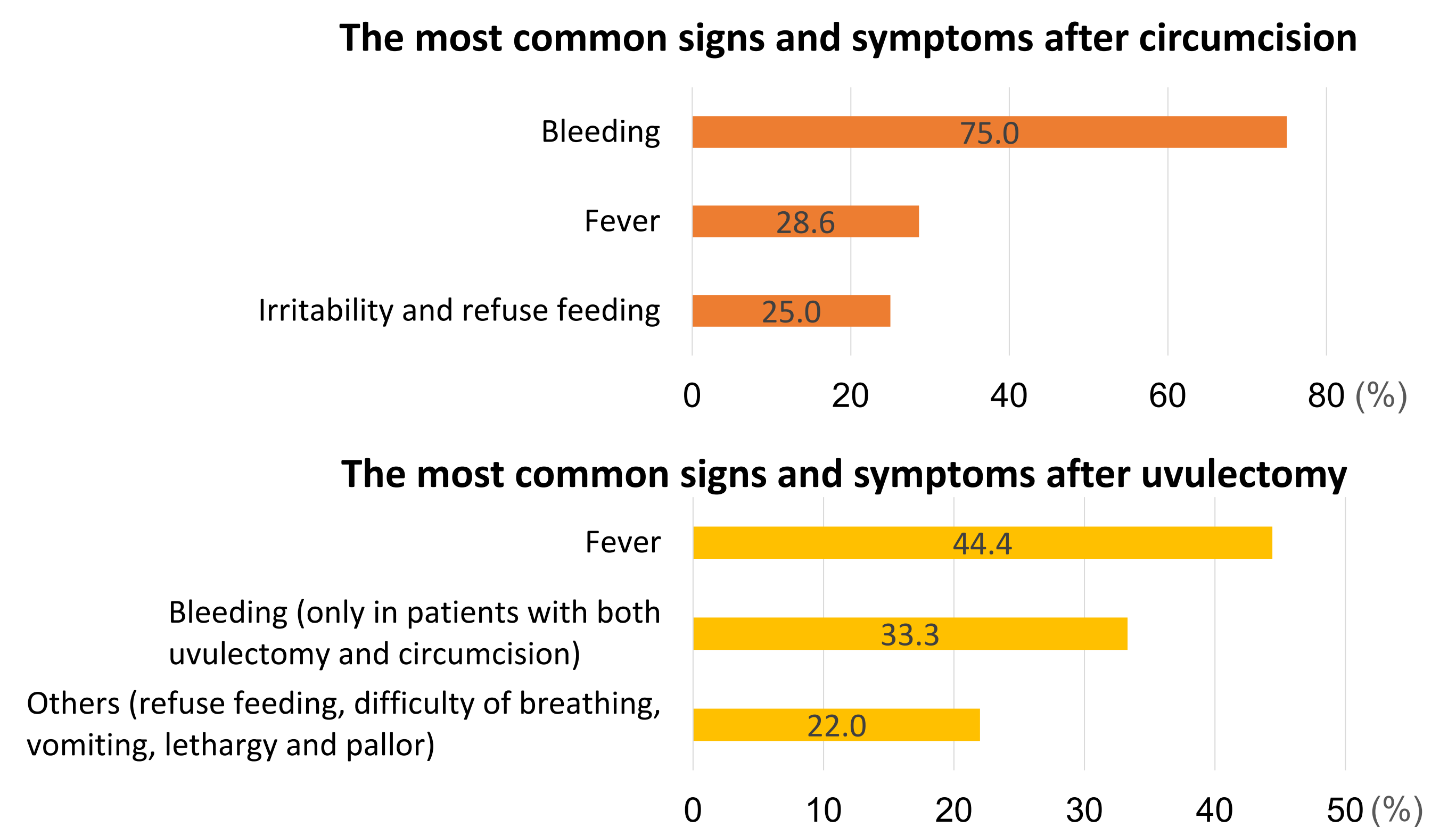


32 neonates hospitalized with complications after circumcision (23), after uvulectomy (4), and after both procedures (5)

Early gangrene as complication of circumcision Extensive skin removal complicated by severe bleeding (in the diaper) Paraphimosis (sign of skin infection)

Khaled Al-Buraee/MSF (all photos)

The most common signs and symptoms after circumcision and uvulectomy were bleeding and fever, respectively

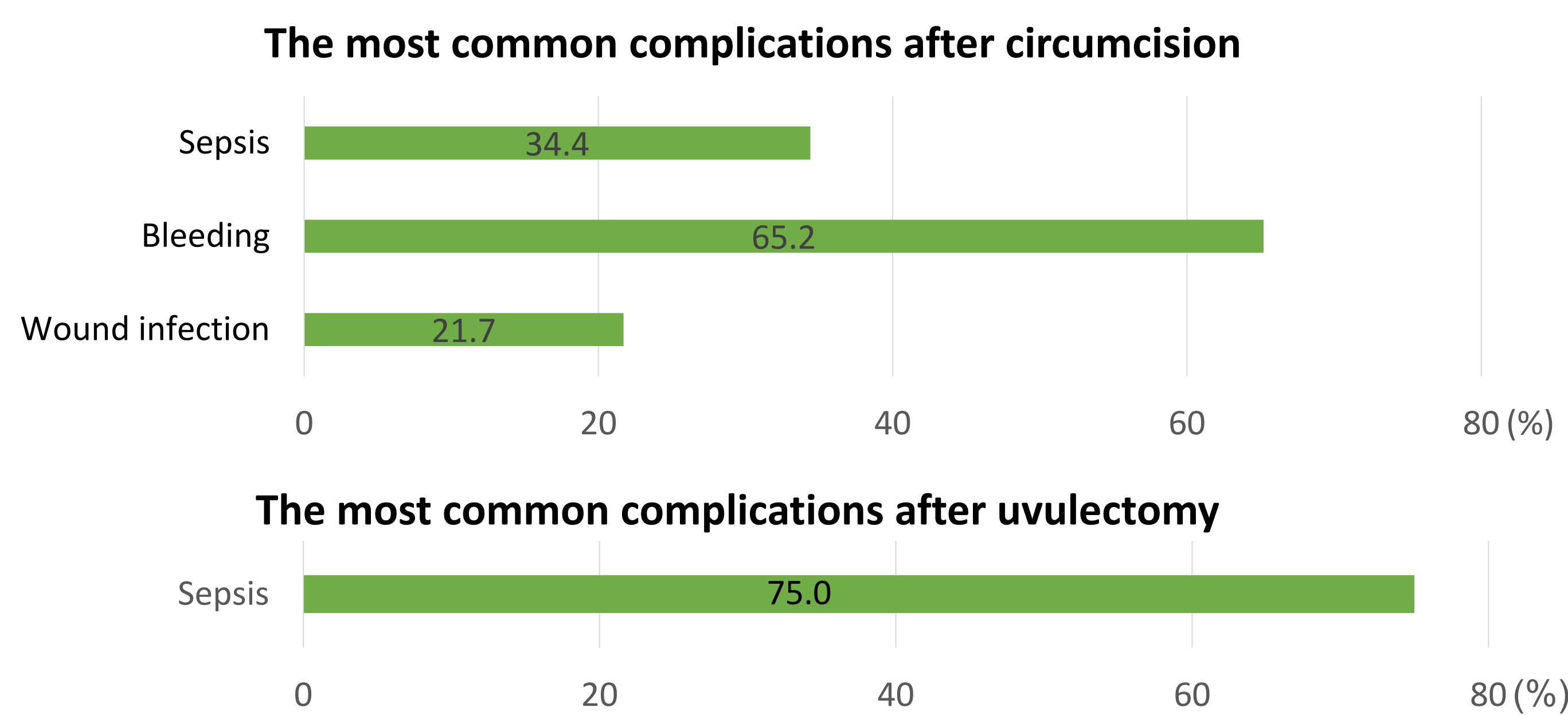


Median admission age: 12.6 days. 68% home births/home delivery; 32% institutional deliveries, including 25% (n = 8) born in the Al Qanawis Mother and Child Hospital.

Methods & Additional Results

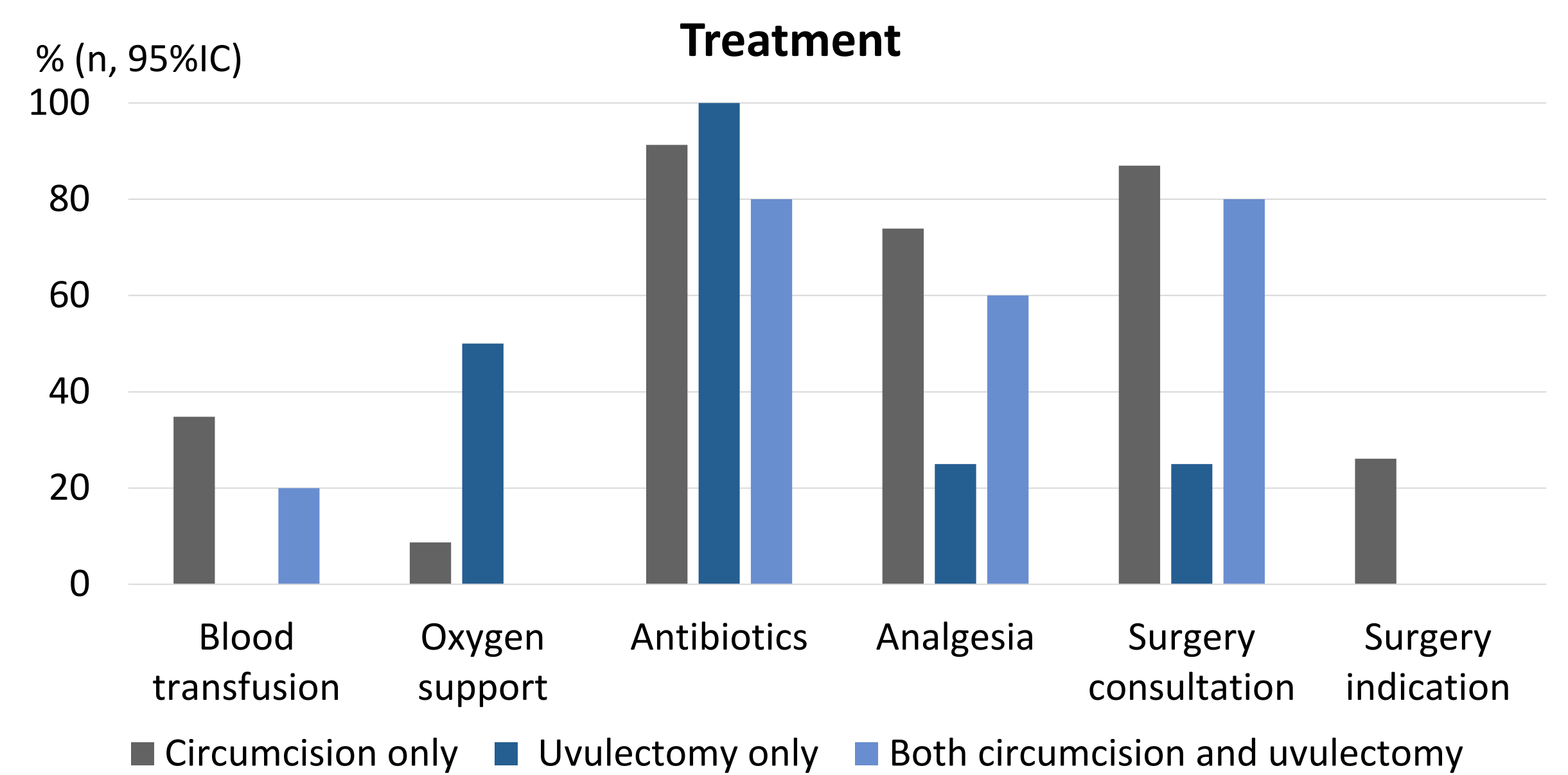
The retrospective, descriptive analysis reviewed neonatal admissions between January 2024 and March 2025 due to complications from traditional circumcision or uvulectomy. Demographic, clinical, and treatment data were extracted from patient records. The descriptive statistics and group comparisons were performed. The approval of the Hospital Director was obtained and the ERB Exemption was applied.

Complications related to traditional surgeries resulted in significant neonatal morbidities



Among 32 admissions, 28 were cured and discharged, followed by two each discharged against medical advice or referred to other facilities. No mortality occurred.

87% of circumcision and 80% of both cases required surgery consultation



The median length of hospital stay was 4.6 days, significantly longer for uvulectomy cases (9.3), compared to circumcision (3.9) and both procedures (3.8).

Conclusions: This study highlights the needs to strengthen community awareness on the risks associated with the practice, particularly, during antenatal and early postnatal periods, and to engage with key stakeholders including traditional healers and birth-attendants, and community leaders and midwives.

Limitations: The total number of admissions in the neonatology department due to complications of traditional surgeries is relatively small (32/2000 admissions). Considering various barriers such as accessibility, some patients with complications may not reach the hospital.