

Background

- Cerebral Palsy (CP) is a leading cause of childhood disability with a substantial burden in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).
- Current data from LMICs suggests that most of the CP causes in this region are preventable.
- Malawi, is a low-income country in southeastern Africa with a population of 21,475,962.
- It has a high burden of cerebral malaria, especially in children under the age of 5 years, however, the prevalence of CP in the country is unknown.

Objectives

- To Understand the etiology and risk factors for CP in children attending physiotherapy service offered at Mulanje District Hospital (MDH), Malawi

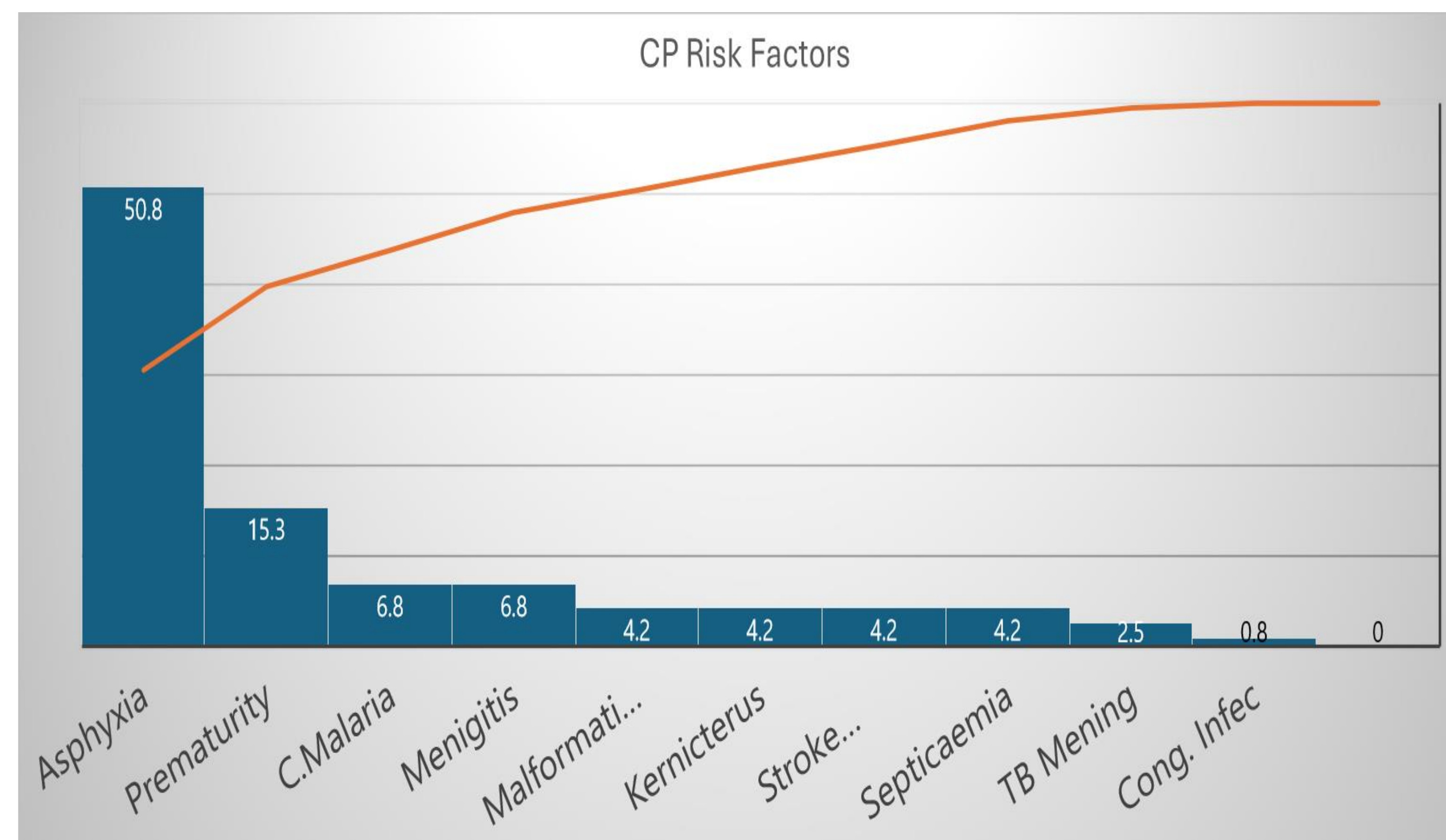
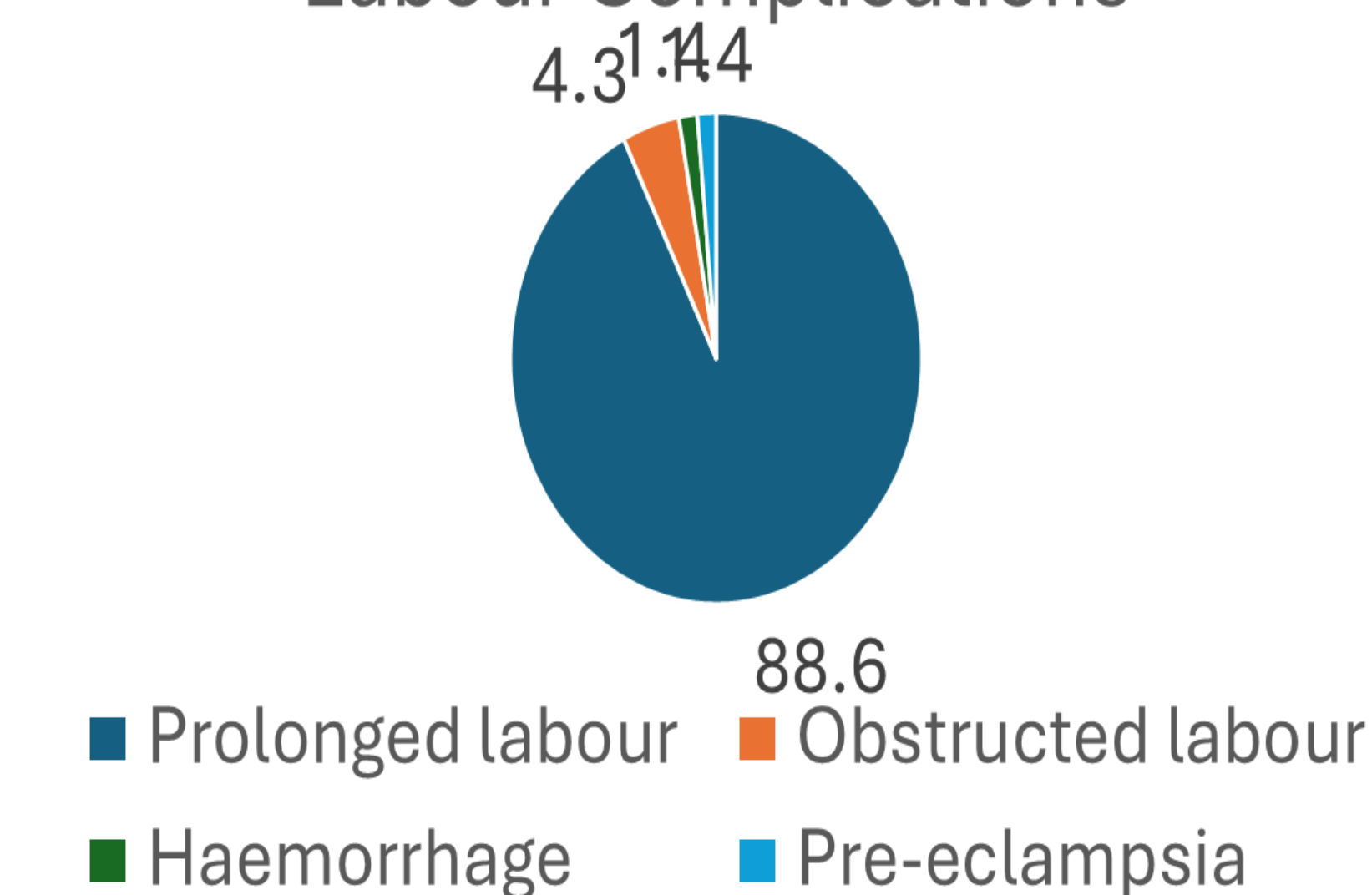
Methods

- This is an interim data analysis from the Malawi CP Register.
- All children with disability attending the physiotherapy clinic at MDH underwent a detailed neurodevelopmental assessment and those confirmed to have CP as per the Global Low- and Middle-Income-Country CP Register (GLM CPR) definition were recruited
- Data were collected using a standard case record form and protocol adapted from GLM CPR. Information about known risk factors CP, clinical classification, timing, and probable causes were documented.

Results

Demographic information (n = 118)	
Male	64.4%
Mean age at assessment years (SD)	3.0 (2.3)
Mean monthly earnings per family_ (USD (SD))	18.9 (31.8)
Moderate to Late Preterm at birth	80.0%
Mean age at CP diagnosis _ months (SD)	8 (8.1)

Labour Complications



- 99.2% were born in Hospital
- Labour complications were reported in 59.5% of the cohort

Conclusion

- Preliminary data indicates perinatal asphyxia as the most common risk factor of CP among children attending physiotherapy clinic at Mulanje District Hospital.

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