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**Table 2 Details of maternal deaths due to avoidable and unavoidable causes in Bahrain, 1987–2004**

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**Causes of maternal death**

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**Unavoidable causes (43 cases, 71.6%)**

**Avoidable causes (17 cases, 28.4%)**

*Lack of intensive care bed (7 cases, 41.1%)*

Sickle-cell disease (2)

Hypertensive disease (2)

Pulmonary embolism (3)

*Failure of clinical management*

*(8 cases, 47.1%)*

Haemorrhage (3): due to failure to do timely hysterectomy

Cardiac (2): due to failure to perform termination (1) and inadequate heparinization (1)

Bowel injury (3): due to undetected bowel injury at the time of caesarean section

*Patient's failure to attend antenatal clinic*

*(2 cases, 11.8%)*

Severe hypertension (1)

Cardiac disease (1)

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