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Study of Obstetric Referral Patterns in a Tertiary Level

Background: Maternal and child health services include "referral services" for identifying and referring women who are pregnant with high-risk babies.

Aim: To find out more about the patterns of obstetric cases that are sent to tertiary care centres, the researchers analysed the outcomes for both the mother and the baby.

Methods: This is a hospital-based prospective cross-sectional study done over a period of 2 years (September 2019 to August 2021) involving antenatal women who were not registered in the study hospital and were referred with a reference letter. Women who were registered with the hospital and referred for financial reasons were excluded.

Results: Majority of reasons for referrals in both the hospitals were Non - availability of skilled doctors (41.4 % in LGH) (41.7% in Attavar) followed by Non- availability of facility (39.7% in LGH) (40% in Attavar). Need for tertiary care centre being the least common reason in LGH and reason not specified in Attavar.Gestational Hypertension being the most common associated risk factor followed by gestational diabetes mellitus in the referred patients in both the hospitals.Majority of the patients underwent LSCS (41% in LGH; 45.8% in Attavar) followed by Normal vaginal delivery.Majority of the referred cases were IUDs in both the hospitals (10.5% in LGH; 12.5% in Attavar) followed by perinatal death. 0.3% maternal mortality were observed in LGH and none in Attavar.

Conclusion: Researchers found that poor prenatal, intra-natal and postpartum services in rural areas are linked to higher maternal and perinatal mortality. This study supports this theory. Reducing maternal and perinatal mortality will be easier with community education and awareness campaigns that focus on health.

Publications

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Biography

Prutha B is currently pursuing her Post graduation degree in MS Obstetrics and Gynecology in Kasturba Medical College Mangalore. Her interests lie in research work, infertility clinics. This being her first of the many research works, looks forward to all the support and constructive criticism.

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