

NEED ASSESSMENT ON PREVENTIVE MEASURES AMONG WOMEN WITH OBSTETRIC FISTULA ATTENDING COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION HOSPITAL, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA, FROM JUNE 2016

NSAMO, LAMECK M. (2017)

ABSTRACT

Background: Obstetric fistula is a 'hole' that forms between the bladder and the vagina or between the rectum and the vagina during prolonged and obstructed labor. Vesico-vaginal fistula is a very serious and disabling injury among women. Obstetric vesico-vaginal fistula remains a significant cause of female urinary incontinence worldwide. The problem of fistula has been a low-priority issue on international agendas, in part because its prevalence is perceived to be fairly low. The condition is however preventable and surgical treatments are available, but a vast majority of women suffering from fistula do not have access to care due to different reasons. These include lack of money for transport from home to the facility, and lack of knowledge on treatment options. This study aims at determining risk factors and birth outcome among women with fistula in Tanzania.

Objectives: The broad objective was to determine risk factors and birth outcome among women with fistula, at Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. **Materials and Methods:** A cross sectional study was conducted to determine risk factors for obstetric fistula. Semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Data was collected from CCBRT from June 2016 to January 2017. The SPSS version 23 software for window was used to analyze data. Frequencies were used to show the distribution of respondents in relation to variables of interest. Cross tabulations were used to relate variables and Chi-square tests were used to find out the significant differences between variables, and P value of less than 0.05 was considered statically significant.

Results: The study revealed several risk factors among study participants, the commonest being big baby 214(69.9%), having an outcome of about 70.9% on stillbirth. The level of knowledge was low, only 11.8% of respondents had satisfactory knowledge on risk factors and 15% had satisfactory knowledge on prevention of obstetric fistula. This was associated with level of education ($\chi^2=8.27= p \text{ value} = 0.04$)

Conclusion: This study found out that the commonest risk factors for obstetric fistula being big baby and prolonged labor, and majority of patients with fistula had poor knowledge on risk factors as well as preventive measures for obstetric fistula.

Recommendations: A Health education intervention which aims at increasing knowledge on prevention of obstetric fistula is of great importance, targeting teenagers, rural residents and those with no formal and primary education. The government should also improve

maternal healthcare services by providing healthcare infrastructures that are within people's reach and throughout a year.