Meta Analysis

Preterm birth: causes and complications observed in tertiary care hospitals

ABSTRACT



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and

The main aim of the study was to identify factors associated with

preterm birth. The study was conducted for a period of 6 months

from September 2019 to February 2020 in 1607 women at SVS

Mahabubnagar and it eventually selected 80 pregnant women for the final experiment. Those pregnant women who had preeclampsia, intrahepatic cholestasis during pregnancy, placenta previa or chorioamnionitis were more likely to experience pre-term birth. A patient interview was conducted in a detailed manner and all the necessary information regarding the mother and the infant were collected to carry out the study. Among 80 patients, collected the highest number of 39 cases i.e. 49% in between the age group of

17-23 years and the least number of cases therefore 19 i.e. 24% in

between the age group of 35-45 years. We studied that maternal variable such as social status and educational status also impacts deliveries. Alcoholics had the highest number of very pre-term deliveries i.e., 36.25%. And among undergraduates, moderate preterm deliveries were a predominant number, i.e. 38.75%. Among the cases collected, 22.5% of women who have previous abortions had the highest number of preterm births with 31 cases and 5% of women with thyroid had the least number of pre-term births. 41% of preemie births were observed in the gestational gap of < 18

and

Sushrutha

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1. Introduction

Birth is considered premature or preterm when it occurs before the 37th week of pregnancy. A normal pregnancy lasts about 40 weeks. Those final weeks in the womb are crucial for healthy weight gain and for the full

months, while 24% were recorded in > 30 months. In between two types of deliveries, 69% of preemie births were observed in the cesarean section and normal delivery includes 31%. The results of our study reveal that there is a need to assess the causes and complications among pregnant women who are at risk of delivering a premature baby. We have concluded that counseling the patients about their risk factors is necessary, and the patients should be told that harmful social habits will have a huge impact on their baby, before or after the delivery. development of various vital organs, including

may require a longer hospital stay [1, 2]. They may also have long-term health issues, such as learning disabilities or physical disabilities

the brain and lungs. This is why premature babies may have more medical problems and

and nervous system disorders in children. In

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the past, premature birth was the major cause of infant death. Today, the quality of care for newborns and their survival rates have improved. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Trusted Source, premature birth is still the top cause of infant death worldwide. The incidence, gestational age, and underlying aetiology of preterm birth are highly variable across different racial and ethnic groups and geographic boundaries. In this study, we will review the risk factors and complications of preterm birth globally [3, 4].

- Low birth weight infants have a higher risk of developing insulin resistance and its co-morbidities later in life. The concept of developmental origins of health and disease suggests that intrauterine and postnatal environments have an important role in increasing these risks. The risk of such adult-onset diseases in LBW infants might be associated with adipose tissue mal-development including altered composition increased and amounts of visceral fat, which is the same mechanism as that in children and adults with metabolic syndrome[5, 6].
- However, LBW infants often have different characteristics: they are not always overweight or obese over their life course. The inconsistency might be associated with the thrifty phenotype, which is produced in response to impaired growth potential and decreased lean body mass. LBW infants tend to be obese within the limits of impaired growth potential [7-9].

Classification of prematurity categorized by birth weight or gestational age is shown as follows (Table 1) $[\underline{10}, \underline{11}]$.

According to birth weight, neonates are divided into three sub-groups. Neonates weighing < 2,500 grams are called as Low Birth Weight neonates [12, 13].

Neonates weighing < 1,500 grams are called as Very Low Birth Weight neonates. Neonates weighing < 1,000 grams are called as Extremely Low Birth Weight neonates.

Extremely low birth weight neonates are at higher risks of developing several conditions relating to health that could be dangerous and foetal[14, 15].

Table 1. Classification of prematurity categorized by birth weight and gestational age

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Birth weight	Birth weight			
Low birth weight (LBW)	< 2500 g			
Very low birth weight (VLBW)	< 1500 g			
Extremely low birth weight (ELBW)	< 1000 g			
Gestational age				
Term	> 37 weeks			
Late pre-term	34 weeks to 37 weeks			
Moderate pre-term	32 weeks to 34 weeks			
Very pre-term	< 32 weeks			
Extremely pre-term	< 28 weeks			

According to the age of gestation, the neonates are sub-divided into four groups. Neonates born after 37 weeks of gestation are considered as term neonates. Neonates born between 37 – 34 weeks of gestation age are called as Late Preterm neonates. Neonates born between 32 – 34 weeks of gestation age are called as Moderate Preterm neonates. Neonates born between 28 – 32 weeks of gestation age are called as Very Preterm neonates. And the neonates born any time before 28 weeks of gestation age are called as Extremely Preterm neonates [1-4].

Preterm birth is one of the major challenges in the world. Globally, prematurity accounts for 12.7% of all lives birth, while late pre-term accounts for around three-fourths [73%] of these premature births. Late preterm infants often have weight and size similar to some term infants, but they are still metabolically and physiologically immature[15, 16]. Preterm is associated with higher rates of neuro-developmental morbidity. sensorineural impairments. coronary heart disease, stroke, and other complications. Preterm birth is the leading direct cause of neonatal death [27%]; more than one million preterm newborns die annually. The incidence rates are higher in undeveloped countries [11.8%] compared to those most developed [9.3%][17, 18].

A woman may have a higher risk of delivering a premature baby if she [19-21];

- Is African-American,
- Has a history of preterm birth,
- Has a history of abortion,
- Is underweight before getting pregnant.

The cause of premature birth often can't be identified. However, certain factors are known to increase a woman's risk of going into labor early. A pregnant woman with any of the following conditions is more likely to have a premature birth: diabetes, heart disease, high blood kidnev disease. pressure, Pregnancy-related factors associated with premature birth include: poor nutrition before and during pregnancy, smoking, using illegal drugs, or drinking too much alcohol during pregnancy, certain infections, such as urinary tract and amniotic membrane infections, premature birth in a previous pregnancy, an abnormal uterus, a weakened cervix opening early, Pregnant women who are younger than 17, Pregnant women who are older than 35[22-24].

It was conducted a study showed the incidence of pre-term birth and provided us with results showing an increase in preterm births which has become a global health concern. Gestational age has a major impact on the clinical outcomes of neonates. History includes the maternal age at the infant's birth, parity and gravidity; history of abortions, and types of delivery including medical conditions, e.g., diabetes mellitus, hypertension, UTI, heart disease and others. Out of 250 newborns included in the study, 180 [72%] were FT and 70 [28%] were LPT. More than half of LPT newborns are admitted to NICU [Neonatal intensive care][25-27].

Delivery of LPT babies is associated with an increased risk of neonatal morbidity, including jaundice, requiring phototherapy, respiratory morbidities, hypoglycemia, and convulsions. LPT neonates were more susceptible to suffering from jaundice and respiratory distress, among other morbidities. A premature baby can have a huge emotional impact on the mother and the entire family. Women who go into preterm labor are more likely to have the below health-related conditions following the delivery of the preemie [25, 28]. The main aim of the study was to identity factors associated with preterm birth.

2. Methods and materials

2.1. Study design

• The study is a Prospective Observational study.

2.2. Source of data and materials

- Patient Consent Form.
- Patient Data Entry Form.

4.3. Inclusion criteria

- In-patients with pre-gestational emergency labor who are willing to consent.
- Neonates born before 37 weeks of the gestational period are included.
- Neonates weighing less than 2,500 grams are included.

2.4. Exclusion criteria

- In-patients with pre-gestational emergency labor who are not willing to give their consent are excluded.
- Neonates born after 37 weeks of the gestational period are excluded.

2.5. Tools of study

- Pelvic Examination
- Ultrasound Scan
- Uterine Monitoring
- Lab Tests

2.6. Method of data collection

- Case Report Forms.
- Patient Questionnaire/Interview.

2.7. Study procedure

- This is a prospective observational study, where eligible patients are enrolled in to the study after obtaining their consent. The case report forms are used.
- This form mainly contains the demographic details of the patient mother and newborn [gestation period and birth weight respectively], and a medication chart.
- The study will be conducted at SVS Medical College hospital. All information relevant to the study will be collected from the time of admission till the date of discharge and the data will be analyzed using a suitable method for statistical analysis.

2.8. Does the study require any investigation to be conducted on patients?

• No.

2.9. Has ethical clearance been obtained from your institution in the case of the above?

 The ethical committee clearance will be obtained from the Institutional Ethical Committee of SVS MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL before initiating the study.

2.9.1. Duration of the study:

The study will be conducted for a period of 6 months

2.9.2. Place of study

• The study will be conducted at SVS MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL.

3. Results

3. 1. Prevalence of preterm births according to age

This prospective observational study was conducted at SVS Medical College and Hospital, and Sushrutha Hospital, Mahabubnagar. A total number of 80 patients were observed. More number of patients is in between the age group 17-23 years (49.0%) and less number of patients is in between the age group 35 - 45 years (24.0%) and zero

number of patients is present in the above 45 years age group (Table 2).

3. 2. Prevalence of preterm birth according to gestation

According to gestational age, the number of cases collected under Moderate Preterm is highest in number, followed by Late Preterm and the least are collected in Extreme Preterm.

Table 2. Preterm Births observed according to Gestational Age

Gestational Age	Number Of	Percentage
destational Age	Cases	%
Late Pre-term	29	36.0
Moderate Pre- term	31	39.0
Very Pre-term	12	15.0
Extreme Pre- term	08	10.0

3. 3. Effect of maternal variables on preterm birth

According to Table 2, the pregnant women who were alcoholics tend to give birth to Very Preterm neonates the most when compared to the others, and pregnant women who were graduates tend to give birth to Moderately preterm birth more when compared to the others.

Table 3. Maternal variables that determine the number of preemies

Variable	Categories	Number	Percentage	Preterm Type
	Smoker	16	20.00	Moderate Preterm
	Alcoholic	29	36.25	Very Preterm
Social Status	Tobacco [chewer]	10	12.50	Extremely Preterm
	None	25	31.25	Late Preterm
Educational Status	Illiterate	29	36.25	Extremely Preterm
	Secondary	12	15.00	Very Preterm
	Under Graduate	31	38.75	Moderately Preterm
	Graduate	08	10.00	Late Preterm

3. 4. Co-morbidities observed during pregnancy

Among the collected cases, Previous Abortion is found to be the most commonly observed disease condition during pregnancy,

closely followed by the Polyhydramnios condition. Whereas Thyroid cases that affected the gestation age were observed to be the least (Table 4).

3. 5. Complications observed in preemie

The most common complication observed in the preterm neonates during our study was septicemia, which was closely followed by Neonatal Jaundice whereas the least common complication observed was Immature Genitalia (Figure 1).

Table 4. Co-morbid Conditions in Pregnancy

Disease	Number Of Cases	Percentage %
Hypertension	10	12.5
Type II DM	09	11.25
Anaemia	05	6.25
Thyroid	04	1.56
Seizures	05	6.25
Oligohydraminos	09	11.25
Polyhydramnios	12	15.0
Previous Abortion	18	22.5
Both DM and HTN	05	6.25

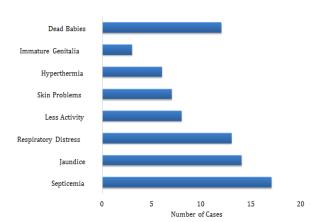


Fig. 1. Distribution of Complications observed in Preemie

3. 6. Prevalence of preemie birth weight

Neonates with Low Birth Weight (48.75%) were in higher number, whereas the least cases recorded were comprised of Extremely Low Birth Weighed (8.75%) neonates.

3. 7. Prevalence of preemie deaths

The most number of deaths was observed in extreme preterm neonates (50%), & least

number of deaths were recorded in Late (14%) and moderate (14%) preterm neonates.

3. 8. Maternal variables affecting preemie weight

Women with little gap between pregnancies tend to give birth more to very low birth weight babies as women with a higher gap between pregnancies tend to give birth more to normal birth weight babies. Women who underwent vaginal delivery gave birth to slightly low birth weight babies whereas women who underwent cesarean section tend to give birth to very low birth weight babies (Table 5).

Table 5. Maternal variables that determine the birth weight

Variables	Categories	Number	Percentage%	Baby Weight
The gap between Pregnancy [in months]	< 18 m	31	40.96	1.61± 0.05
	18-30 m	20	24.09	2.05 ± 0.08
	> 30 m	29	34.94	2.63 ± 0.06
Type of Delivery	Normal	57	68.68	2.01± 0.04
	C - section	26	31.32	1.18 ± 0.06

3. 9. Effect of maternal conditions on preemie birth

Women who had irregular menstrual cycles before pregnancy (14.46%) gave birth to preemies more when compared to the women who had regular menstrual cycles (85.54%). Women who took proper medical advice during their pregnancy (71%) gave birth to less number of preterm neonates when compared to the women who did not take or follow any medical advice (29%).

3. 10. Abortion History

Women with abortion history (Figure 2) gave more birth to extremely and very preterm neonates and women with no abortion history (Figure 3) gave birth more to late preterm neonates.

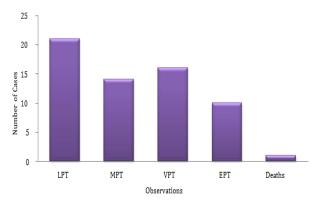


Fig. 2. History of Abortion [yes] and number of deaths recorded

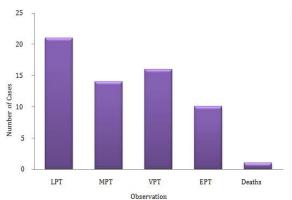


Fig. 3. History of Abortion [no] and number of deaths recorded

4. Discussion

A total 80 number of premature birth cases were collected from various health centers of the Mahabubnagar district. The centers include SVS medical college and hospital, Government hospital, and Sushrutha hospital. Among total cases it was found that 29 cases were late pre-term i.e. 36%, 12 cases are moderate pre-term i.e. 39%, 12 cases are very preterm i.e. 15% and 8 cases are extreme pre-term i.e. 10% respectively. After enrollment of the confirmed cases of premature birth maternal parameters and co-morbid to have an impact on premature birth were collected through structural format questionnaires and CRF forms.

In research, the frequency and evaluates the factors associated with low birth weight was calculated. This is a retrospective study with information obtained with data from records of pregnant women between 2011 and 2014 who returned for an evaluation of their newborn after birth. The pre-term birth is associated with the factors like perinatal

care, socioeconomic factors, multiple births, and gestational age, past history and housing conditions also. The data of 794 pregnant women and their newborns were analyzed. The age of the pregnant women varied from 13-44 years[29]. The significant predictors of birth weight are maternal height, gestational age, parity, third-trimester maternal weight gain rate and fetal gender. The other important variable found significant in our study was gestational age in weeks. It is very well known that birth weight is a product of gestational age and intrauterine growth[30]. In the present study, Gestational age was categorized into 4 groups i.e. in between 34-37 weeks categorize as late pre-term, in 32-34 weeks categorized moderate pre-term, <32 weeks categorized as very pre-term and <28 weeks categorized as extreme pre-term.

In a study, a premature birth is defined as the onset of labor before the 37th week of pregnancy accompanied by multiple pathogenic causes. The primary risk factors of pre-term birth is multiple pregnancies, history pre-term birth, congenital abnormalities, history of conical resection, cervical dilation>2cm secondary risk: History miscarriage. history of acute pyetonephritis, bleeding in the 2nd trimester. Maternal causes and conditions in pregnancy related to pre-term birth like socio-economic and racial factors, maternal age, burdened obstetric history, previous abortions, history of infertility, smoking, alcohol and illegal drug use. Pre-term neonates and prematurity complications are newborn respiratory distress syndrome, cardiovascular disorders, neurological disorders. neonatal brain hemorrhage, metabolic disorders and hematological disorders[31]. In the present study, maternal variables are social status and educational status determines the number of pre-term birth divided into two variables social status and educational status. Among the socio-status smoker categories have 16 cases i.e. 20% has moderate pre-term birth, alcoholic category have 29 cases i.e. 36.25% has very pre-term birth, tobacco has 25 cases i.e. 12.50% has extremely pre-term birth and none of the social statuses have the 25 cases i.e. 36.25% has late preterm birth. Among the educational status illiterate category has 29

cases i.e. 36.25% has extremely pre-term birth, the secondary category has 12 cases i.e. 15% has 31 cases i.e. 38.75% has moderate preterm delivery and the graduate category have 8 cases i.e. 10% has late preterm delivery.

The major cause and risk factor of delivering a premature baby are giving birth in between the age group 17 to 35, being underweight or overweight before pregnancy, smoking or use of illegal drugs, having multiple miscarriages or abortions, having diabetes or high blood pressure or having infection during pregnancy. The common premature baby complications are breathing problems, low blood sugar, heart problems, and vision problems, hearing problems, asthma, infections and problems with feeding[32-34]. In the present study, Among all the 80 cases collected different co-morbid conditions of drug pregnancy that cause preterm birth was identified. Among all the cases Hypertension has 10 cases i.e. 12.5%, Type-2 diabetes mellitus has 9 cases i.e. 11.25%, Anemia has 5 cases i.e. 6.25%, Thyroid has 4 cases i.e. 5%, Seizures has 5 cases i.e. 6.25%, Oligohyrdramines has 9 cases, i.e. 11.25%, Previous abortions is the highest condition which is having 18 cases i.e. 22.5%, Polyhyrominos has 12 cases i.e. 15% and both DM and HTN have 5 cases i.e. 6.25%.

In some studies on respiratory distress the earliest recognized syndrome. complication associated with premature birth is RDS. Sepsis is a systemic inflammatory response resulting from infection with such bacteria. Studies suggest that 25% of very low birth weight infants have been delivered due premature delivery. Necrotizing to enterocolitis the most serious is gastrointestinal complication effectively preterm infants. Intraventricular hemorrhage and periventricular leukomalacia are the most significant forms of perinatal brain injury observed in premature infants [35, 36]. In the present study. The most common complications observed in the pre-term neonates was Septicemia which includes 17 cases i.e. 21.2%, Jaundice includes 14 cases i.e. 17.5%, Respiratory distress includes 13 cases i.e. 16.25%, Less activity includes 8 cases i.e. 10%, Skin problems include 7 cases i.e.8.75%,

Hyperthermia includes 6 cases i.e. 7.5%, Immature genitalia includes 3 cases i.e. 3.75% and Dead babies include 12 cases i.e. 15%.

It was carried out the study on Low birth weight. According to their study, low birth weight is considered as a sensitive index of a Nation's health and development. Prevalence of low birth weight babies among institutional deliveries and its association with sociocultural and maternal risk factors. A hospitalbased cross-sectional study was undertaken comprising of 220 postnatal mothers. Out of 220 respondents, LBW was 23.6%. The risk factors are dietary intake, pre-term deliveries and period of gestation associated with low birth weight [37-39]. In the present study, the Body weight of premature babies is categorized into three categories. <2500g is categorized as low birth weight, <1500g is considered as very low birth weight and <1000g is considered as extremely low birth weight. Among them low birth weight has the highest number of cases therefore 39 i.e. 50%, very low birth weight has 32 cases i.e. 41% and extremely low birth weight has the least number of cases with 7 i.e. 9%.

Limitations and recommendations can be as follow: The time period of our study was very limited. As the study was very time-consuming we could not conduct our study in a large population. Our study can be further followed to study different types of complications seen in the infant. We can also carry on this study in depth based on causes of the preterm birth.

5. Conclusion

Among all the cases collected, 31% of cases comprised of moderate preterm neonates, whereas 10% of cases comprised of extremely preterm neonates. A maternal variable [social status and educational status] also impacts the deliveries. Alcoholics had the highest number of very pre-term deliveries i.e. 36.25%. And among undergraduates. moderate preterm deliveries were in a predominant number, i.e. 38.75%. Among the cases collected, 22.5% of women who have previous abortions had the highest number of preterm births with 31 cases and 5% of women with thyroid had the least number of pre-term births. LBW neonates comprised of 50% of the entire cases, VLBW neonates comprised of 41% and ELBW neonates comprised of 9% of the cases. More number of preemie births was observed in the gestational gap of < 18 months i.e. 41% while the least were recorded in > 30 months i.e. 24%. In between two types of deliveries normal and c-section, more preemie births were observed in the cesarean section i.e. 69% and normal delivery includes 31%.

Conflict of Interest

The authors hereby declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Author's contributions

All authors equally participated in designing experiment analysis and interpretation of data. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Consent for publications

All authors have read and approved the final manuscript for publication.

Availability of data and material

The authors have embedded all data in the manuscript.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The authors did not use human or animals in the research

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