

Original Article

The Effect of Antenatal Care on the Probability of Neonatal Survival at Birth, Wad Medani Teaching Hospital, Sudan

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Abstract

Objectives: This study is a comparative prospective cohort study testing the hypothesis that "there will be positive and established effects of each quality type of antenatal care intervention on neonatal survival at birth" by disproving the alternative hypothesis.

Method: A sample of 236 deliveries was selected. All the respondents were primigravidae with their quality type antenatal care recorded. All pregnancies outcome (still-or-live birth) was examined and then recorded together with mothers' health state. Further analysis was carried out using log-linear and logistic regression.

Results: According to the applied scoring system 98 were sorted out as "good" women, 55 as "moderate" and 83 as "bad" in terms of their state of health. Women, who received "good" antenatal care, were 106. Only 2(1.08%) had stillborn babies, while 57 who received "moderate" antenatal care had 8(14.03%) stillbirths. Those who received no services (73) ended with 16(21.09%) stillborn babies.

Data was standardized for the influence of antenatal care, coded, computed and conclusions driven. Women having good health and receiving good antenatal care services are more likely to have live-born babies in opposition to those who had bad health and had no antenatal care.

The odds of having a live-birth is 11.807 greater among women who had good antenatal care and good health than those who lacked good health and had no antenatal care services.

Different combinations of variables could also show that antenatal care is the decisive variable in pregnancy desirable outcome (live-birth).

Conclusion: The frequency of stillbirth was very high (31.11%) among women categories "bad health" and "no antenatal care". Adequacy of antenatal care is strongly and consistently associated with birth outcome..

Key words: Antenatal Care, Neonatal Survival, pregnancy