Maternal and Perinatal outcome of Eclampsia at a third level Tunisian hospital: a 12 years review

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BACKGROUND AND GOAL OF STUDY:

Despite advances in detection and management, preeclampsia/eclampsia remains a common cause of maternal morbidity and death in the world.

The aim of this study was to assess the incidence of eclampsia and its morbidity and mortality.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

We conducted a retrospective survey in a third level Tunisian university teaching hospital from January 2004 to December 2016.

We included all patients with the diagnosis of eclampsia. We evaluated clinical profile, maternal and perinatal outcome.

RESULTS:

In our study period, 129847 deliveries were registered. Eighty-three women with eclampsia were identified. Hence, the incidence of eclampsia was 64 per 100000 deliveries.

There was a bimodal distribution in age with the highest frequency at 21 and 41 years.

All cases of eclampsia occurred before delivery.

A quarter of first seizures occurred in hospital.

The median gestational age at the time of eclampsia was 35 weeks of gestation.

The delivery mode was caesarean section in 100%.

The recurrence of eclampsia despite magnesium sulfate prevention was observed in 6% of patients.

Severe complications of eclampsia were recorded in 10.8% of patients:

- Four cases of posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome,
- Two cases of acute pulmonary edema,
- and 3 cases of HELLP syndrome.

No maternal deaths due to eclampsia were recorded.

Only 10.8% of new born were preterm. There were 5 stillbirths and 2 neonatal deaths.

CONCLUSION:

The incidence of eclampsia was very high probably due to center effect. It's essential to raise awareness among mothers in the community regarding early signs and symptoms of preeclampsia / eclampsia and to design a better tracking system for antenatal care program.