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An evaluation of preterm deliveries in a developing country

Happiness Nnode Masango

University of Calabar, Nigeria

Preterm delivery is the leading cause of perinatal mortality accounting for up to 40-60% of perinatal deaths. These have been attributed to a variety of factors, though in some cases the direct cause is not readily apparent. In this study were risk factors identified to preterm delivery and outcome, birth weight, uptake of antenatal care and outcome were significantly associated with marital status, (likelihood ratio; 0.03, 0.000 and 0.001) respectively. The poor outcomes (lame and death) were higher among babies of single mothers; 8 out of 12 lame and 16 out of 25 deaths and met statistical significance, $p = 0.001$. Compulsory female education and early identification of women at risk of preterm delivery and referral to appropriate centers as well as the use of cheap and cost-effective care would go a long way to reduce these deaths.

drhappinessntia@gmail.com