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Determinants of Neonatal Congenital Anomalies

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Congenital anomalies (CAs) are structural, functional, or metabolic anomalies that originate during intrauterine life and can interfere with the body functions. Congenital anomalies are also known as birth defects, congenital disorders or congenital malformations. Congenital anomalies can be defined as structural or functional anomalies (for example, metabolic disorders) that occur during intrauterine life and can be identified prenatally, at birth, or sometimes may only be detected later in infancy, such as hearing defects. The study aims to estimate the frequency, describe the types, and identify the possible risk factors of CAs among infants born over last 5 years in Sassoon General Hospital, Pune, India.

Methods: A retrospective case series and a case-control study were conducted. Patients' records for the last 5 years from January 2015 to December 2020 were reviewed through Medical Record Section from infants born in Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Sassoon General Hospital. Data were collected using a record review checklist.

Results: The study revealed that congenital anomalies of the digestive system, musculoskeletal system and circulatory system were the most common types of CAs. Males were more affected with

CAs than females. The major risk factors for CAs were old-aged parents, complications

during pregnancy, unprescribed medications and excessive vitamin A intake during pregnancy, exposure to chemicals and pesticides during pregnancy, and living near mobile strengthening stations.

Conclusion: Congenital malformations of the digestive, musculoskeletal, and circulatory systems were the most common types of CAs in the Sassoon General Hospital. To prevent CAs, there is a need to restrict the prescription of medications that may have a teratogenic effect.