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Emergency Neonatal Surgery: Outcome in a University Hospital of Pakistan

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Objective: The aim was to measure outcome of neonatal emergency surgery in a university hospital of Pakistan.

Methods: A 3 years retrospective study was carried out in department of Pediatric Surgery after ethical approval. Records of all neonates operated in emergency, except orthopedic and neural tube defects repair, were collected. Outcome was analyzed with different variables to see if any association was present using logistic regression.

Results: Total 188 neonates were included with mean age of 7.96 ± 7.88 days and mean weight of 2.59 ± 0.36 kilograms. 124 (66%) were male and co morbid conditions were noted in 4.8% neonates, while associated congenital anomalies were seen in 11.7% neonates. Mean days of hospital stay were 7.56 ± 6.14 days. Gastrointestinal anomalies were noted in 75.1%, tracheoesophageal fistula in 9%, diaphragmatic hernia in 2.7% and abdominal wall defects in 4.8% cases. Overall 39 (20.7%) neonates died. There was association between outcome and diagnosis, findings, comorbid conditions (p value=0.0001).

Conclusion: Overall neonatal surgical mortality rate in our set up was 20.7% and was mainly seen in cases of gastrointestinal anomalies like necrotizing enterocolitis, mid gut volvulus, pneumoperitoneum with sepsis and in cases of tracheoesophageal fistula with esophageal atresia and gastroschisis.

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