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Eclampsia in the University Teaching Hospital in Brazzaville, Congo.

Foreign Title : L'eclampsie au Centre Hospitalier et Universitaire de Brazzaville, Congo

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Abstract : Through a retrospective study conducted at the University Teaching Hospital in Brazzaville, we sought to determine the frequency, assess the epidemiology of eclampsia.

eclamptic patients, and maternal and foetal outcome. It was an analytical study of birth records over a 7 year period between January 1st 2001 and December 31st 2007. During this period, 136 patients with eclampsia were noted. The frequency was 0.58%, and it occurred mostly in young women aged between 16 and 29 (68.4%), and primiparous in 68.4%. About half of the patients had not had antenatal visits (46.3%). Delivery was by caesarean section in 61.6% of the patients. The maternal mortality rate was 8.8%, and the perinatal mortality 33.4%. We conclude that eclampsia still occurs at an alarming rate in the University Teaching Hospital in Brazzaville. Better outcome, antenatal care in all health facilities have to be reinforced, low dose aspirin has to be administered to high risk women, and the indication for caesarean section widened in the event of pre eclampsia.

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