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Fistules obstétricales/Obstetric fistula - Charles-Henry Rochat

International Society of Obstetric Fistula Surgeons (ISOFS)



**Second ISOFS Conference
The Presbyterian Guest House and Conference Centre**

**25-27 Novembre 2009
Nairobi, Kenya**

Risk factors of obstetric fistula in the Far North Province of Cameroon

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Tebeu PM, de Bernis L, Doh AS, Rochat CH, Delvaux T. Risk factors of obstetric fistula in the Far North Province of Cameroon. Paper presented at: Second ISOFS Conference; 2009 Nov 25-27; Nairobi, Kenya. Available from: http://www.gfmer.ch/Presentations_En/Pdf/Risk-factors-obstetric-fistula-Tebeu-2009.pdf.

Abstract

Objective

The objective of the study was to describe the circumstances of occurrence and identify potential risk factors of obstetric fistula in Northern Cameroon.

Methods

This case series study included 42 obstetric fistula patients seeking services at Provincial Hospital of Maroua, Cameroon between May 2005 and August 2007. Structured interviews were conducted prior to surgical intervention.

Results

Among obstetric fistula patients, 60% were living with obstetric fistula for more than 5 years. Eighty-one percent of patients had received no formal education and 86% were teenagers at their first delivery. Regarding the pregnancy and delivery preceding the occurrence of the fistula, 50% of women reported having received no antenatal care, and 76% were in labor for more than 12 hours. The majority (83%) of women delivered a stillborn baby.

Conclusion

Obstetric fistula in the Far north Province of Cameroon fits into a global context of weak maternal health program.

Key words: Obstetric fistula, characteristics, risk factor, Maroua, Cameroon