EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DETERMINANTS OF VESICOVAGINAL FISTULA IN UNTH - 1980 TO 1989

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JANUARY 1991
A study of the epidermiological determinants of vesicovaginal fistula at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Enugu, covering the period between 1980 and 1989.

The incidence was found to be decreasing gradually as the year increased. 14% of the 200 cases studied occurred in 1980, 1981 had the same percentage while 1989 had only 4.

No case was recorded in females aged less than 10 years. Those between 20 and 29 years had the greatest incidence constituting 50% of the cases 30 - 39 years, then 2% and 3% respectively for 40 - 49 years and 50 years and above. The greatest distribution between the ages of 10 and 39 gives an impression of association of vesicovaginal fistula with child bearing since this range represents the active child bearing years in most women's lives.

84% of the cases were due to Prolonged and obstructed labours 46% for the farmer 38% for the latter. Surgical trauma accounted for 8%, other traumas 5% and malignancies only 3%. A fall in incidence of prolonged and obstructed labour was noticed with progressing years, probably due to increasing attention to maternal health in the country.

Grandmultiparous and primiparous females constituted 34% and 31.5% respectively while the nulliparous had only 4%. This picture represents a possibility of cephalopelvic disproportion and inadequate pelves as major etiologic factors.

All these boil down to unskilled and grossly inadequate obstetric care.

A good number of the patients were of the low socioeconomic group and possibly could not afford obstetric care or were ignorant.