

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLES

Quality of normal delivery care in Côte d'Ivoire

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to assess the quality of normal delivery care in Côte d'Ivoire. A total of 229 women were included in a cross-sectional study conducted in four urban maternity wards between 2002 and 2003. Observation checklists and exit-interviews were used to examine various dimensions of care. The results showed that the overall quality of care was poor, despite most women giving birth with a professional midwife. A vaginal examination was performed systematically at admission but blood pressure was measured in less than half of the women. The partograph was completed during labour in only 5% of cases. Episiotomy and uterine revision rates were high at 24% and 32%, respectively. There was a lack of universal hygiene precautions and women received little support during labour. Our results question the quality of labour, delivery and post-partum care by skilled attendants in Côte d'Ivoire.

Keywords: *Skilled attendance, basic obstetric care, quality of care*

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