

CONDITIONS OF DELIVERY IN MULTIPLE PREGNANCY

Observations on the Danzig Population over Twenty Years

W. MIERZEJEWSKI, S. METLER, St. METLER, J. RUDZINSKI

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Academy of Medicine, Danzig, Poland

An analysis of the conditions of delivery in multiple pregnancy, with special respect to the parity of the woman, has been carried out on a sample of 619 deliveries from multiple pregnancy in the Danzig population.

A total of 69,102 deliveries were recorded in our Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 1.01.53 to 30.06.72. These included 619 from twin pregnancies, 6 from triplet pregnancies and 1 from a quintuplet pregnancy.

The 619 twin deliveries were analysed with respect to (1) parity of the woman, i.e., whether primipara or multipara; (2) age of the woman; (3) duration of pregnancy; (4) presentation of the twins; (5) duration of labor until delivery of first twin; (6) delay in delivery of second twin.

The results are shown in the Table.

It may be added that the delay in delivery of the second twin was mainly due to difficult presentation and the need for operative or other assistance. Apart from 40 cases of Cesarean section, the deliveries of first and second twins were analysed separately. Remarkably enough, spontaneous deliveries were only 47.8% in second twins, as compared to 78.2% in first twins. Operative deliveries concerned almost three times more frequently second twins than first twins (45.9% vs. 15.5%).

It may be finally noted that blood loss during the third stage of labor in deliveries of twins was relevant, with massive hemorrhages (501-1000 ml) occurring in 18.4% of cases. This may have a certain practical importance in conducting the third stage of labor.

Dr. W. Mierzejewski, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Academy of Medicine, ul. Kliniczna 1a, 80-402 Gdansk, Poland.

Table. *Conditions of Delivery in Multiple Pregnancy* (% values)

	Primiparae [N = 214]	Multiparae [N = 405]	Total
<i>Years of age</i>			
< 20	23.7	0.9	8.8
21-25	43.6	25.4	31.6
26-30	20.5	28.6	25.8
31-35	8.5	27.1	20.1
36-40	3.3	11.8	9.0
> 41	1.4	5.9	4.4
<i>Weeks of pregnancy</i>			
20-24	3.3	5.2	4.5
25-27	3.3	3.7	3.5
28-30	6.6	4.9	5.5
31-33	12.8	11.1	11.7
34-35	20.3	17.7	18.7
36-38	31.9	30.1	30.7
39-40	18.9	22.7	21.4
> 41	4.4	4.4	4.4
<i>Presentation of twins</i>			
vertex-vertex	46.9	49.6	48.7
vertex-breech	20.4	20.0	20.1
breech-vertex	13.5	7.9	9.8
breech-breech	11.8	12.9	12.5
vertex-transv.	5.2	5.4	5.3
breech-transv.	2.8	3.7	3.4
other	0.4	0.5	0.5
<i>Hours of labor until first delivery</i>			
< 3	17.5	33.8	27.9
4-6	18.9	24.9	21.2
7-9	15.1	15.0	16.5
10-12	14.4	10.8	12.0
13-15	14.2	2.9	6.2
16-21	6.6	2.7	4.0
22-24	6.6	2.9	4.2
> 25	10.4	4.2	6.3
<i>Minutes of delay in delivery of second twin</i>			
< 10	66.0	56.5	59.7
11-20	23.7	24.4	24.2
21-30	5.9	11.8	9.7
31-40	4.2	3.2	3.5
> 41	1.9	3.9	3.2