Background: Genitourinary fistulae have profound implications and impact on the psychological, financially and physical well-being of women and their families. The objective of this study is present the experiences of genitourinary fistulas at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Methods: One hundred and four consecutive patients with genitourinary fistulas were admitted for evaluation, treatment (surgical) and thereafter followed up within a ten year period. Demographic and clinical data were collected. The patients were re-evaluated 3 months after surgery.

Results: From the 2002 to 2012 there were one hundred and four admissions into the gynecological ward and theatre for different genitourinary fistulas. Forty-six of them had vaginal repairs (44.2%) and twenty-one had abdominal repairs (20.2%). Thirty-seven are yet to be repaired following EUA, most of which do not return for various reasons mostly financial constraints or lost to follow up (37.57%). Ninety-eight of these patients (94.2%) were of obstetrics origin and largely from prolonged obstructed labour (74.3%). These were unbooked patients and referred from various traditional birth attendants’ places, health centres and churches. 18.1% of the patients had prolonged labour associated with previous caesarean sections. An attempted destructive procedure (craniotomy) was associated with a rectovaginal fistula and was repaired vaginally.

Conclusion: The findings are similar to other studies in other parts of Nigeria. However a cure is feasible and safe obstetrics practices remains a cornerstone to prevention of genitourinary fistulae. These characteristics provide data towards the development of an obstetric fistula prevention program in Rivers State.