Objectives: The aim of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of ampicillin versus cefazolin, as prophylactic antibiotics prior to cesarean section in Rwanda.
Methods: This was a prospective randomized open-label single-site study comparing prophylactic ampicillin versus cefazolin in women undergoing cesarean section. Post-operatively, subjects were evaluated daily while in the hospital and evaluated for infectious morbidity and follow up was done on the phone and by appointment at the hospital within 2 weeks.
Results: From March 1, 2012 to May 31, 2012, there were 578 total deliveries with 234 cesarean sections (40.4%). 132 subjects were enrolled into the study and randomized: 66 into the Ampicillin Group and 65 subjects into the Cefazolin Group. No subjects were lost to follow up during the study. The overall infection rate was 16% (21/131). The infection rates in the Ampicillin Group and the Cefazolin Group were 25.8% (17/66) and 6.2% (4/65) respectively.
Conclusions: This study suggests that implementing a universal protocol in Rwanda of prophylactic cefazolin prior to cesarean delivery could reduce post-operative febrile morbidity, the use of post-operative antibiotics and post-operative hospital days.