TREND OF INSTRUMENTAL DELIVERIES AT ABAKALIKI SOUTH EAST NIGERIA
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BACKGROUND:
Instrumental vaginal deliveries are conducted for either maternal or fetal indication in well selected cases to optimise feto-maternal outcome. The trend is changing from forceps towards vacuum deliveries in many countries.

OBJECTIVES:
To determine the rate of instrumental deliveries, the trend and the feto-maternal outcome.

METHODS:
This was a retrospective study of all women that had instrumental delivery over a 10 year period (between 1st January, 2003 and December, 2012) at three tertiary hospitals in Abakaliki.

RESULTS:
A total of 14,410 deliveries were recorded within the study period. Of these 768 had instrumental deliveries giving an instrumental delivery rate of 0.05%. Vacuum delivery accounted for 764/768(99.5%) giving a delivery rate of 0.05% while forceps was 4/768(0.5%) with a delivery rate of 0.0003%. Within the study period, the trend waned from the maximum of 16.3% in 2003 to 79 (10.3%) in 2005 after which it had an upward spike to 83 (10.8%) in 2006. Thereafter it decreased in the subsequent years reaching the lowest rate of 37 (4.8%) in 2009 and rose progressively till 2012 to the third highest level of 94 (12.3%). This pattern of trend is similar to findings in vacuum deliveries while forceps deliveries was only conducted in 2004 and 2011 with a percentage of 2 (50%) each. The most common fetal complication was birth asphyxia. No maternal mortality was recorded.

CONCLUSION:
Vacuum delivery was a common obstetrics practice and has almost replaced forceps deliveries in our centre.

KEYWORDS:
Abakaliki, Forceps delivery, Instrumental vaginal delivery, Nigeria, Trend, Vacuum..