PREVALENCE OF STILLBIRTHS AT OROTTA NATIONAL REFERRAL MATERNITY HOSPITAL IN ERITREA FROM 2007-2010

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Objective: To determine and describe the prevalence trend of stillbirths after implementation of medical education at Orotta National Referral Maternity Hospital

Design: Retrospective, descriptive study

Setting: National Referral Hospital, Asmara Eritrea

Population: All women delivered in hospital with 5-minute APGAR 0, from 2007-2010

Methods: Retrospective review of all maternity logbooks and hospital statistics from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2010 for all stillbirths > 1000 grams. Data were collected and analyzed using Stata IC-10.

Main outcome measure: Overall stillbirth prevalence, yearly trend and characteristics

Results: Outcomes of 34095 deliveries were included. Overall four-year stillbirth rate was 22.8/1000 deliveries and rate/year: 28.2/1000 (2007), 19.4/1000 (2008), 23.7/1000 (2009) and 20.1/1000 (2010). Overall mean maternal age was 28 (range 16-53), mean parity was 1.9 (0-11) and 83% were vaginal deliveries. Of the documented stillborns with 5-minute APGAR 0, 51.7% were male with an overall mean weight of 2500 grams (range 1000-5100 grams). Overall 29% (226/778) were fresh, though 41.9% (226/539) of documented known in-hospital FHT were fresh stillbirths.

Conclusions: Within a national referral hospital, most stillbirths (>50%) presented before admission. There appears to be a small drop in stillbirth rate that is maintained after 2007 that could be due to implementation of medical and postgraduate training in obstetrics and gynecology. With improved recognition of potential risk factors and specific audit studies more stillbirths can be prevented.