

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE IN MULTIPLE PREGNANCIES

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The perinatal mortality rate in multiple pregnancies has been examined both in literature data (where it reaches an average value of 17.5%), and on a sample of 619 twin deliveries from the Danzig population.

The perinatal mortality rate in multiple pregnancy may even widely vary, especially according to the period considered, as can be seen from Table 1, collecting the available data from the literature. In the average, over a total of 16,285 deliveries considered for the various periods, it appears to be 17.5%.

Table 2 summarizes our own observations on perinatal mortality in multiple pregnancies, based on a sample of 619 twin deliveries, representing 8.9‰ (1 : 112) over a total of 69,102 general deliveries occurred in our Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Danzig in the period 1953-1972.

Our data stress the need for early diagnosis of twin pregnancy, suitable treatment of the patient, and possibly early hospitalization, which will allow for a decrease of premature deliveries, and thus of the perinatal mortality rate, in multiple pregnancies.

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Table 1. *Perinatal Mortality Rate in Multiple Pregnancy* (Literature data)

Source	Period	N	%
Potter and Grunden 1941	1931-1941	332	13.8
Mummel and Taylor 1946	1934-1944	135	28.0
Hawker and Allen 1949	1937-1947	145	22.0
Potter and Fuller 1949	1941-1947	252	14.0
Bender 1952	1946-1951	472	11.0
Fink 1955	1955	669	19.3
Anderson 1956	1938-1942	172	23.2
Anderson 1956	1934-1947	262	20.2
Anderson 1956	1948-1952	360	15.5
Guttmacher and Kohl 1958, 1962	1950-1956	1327	13.3
Little and Friedman 1958	1947-1957	417	9.2
Danielson 1960	1940-1957	1006	12.0
Weddel et al. 1960		203	10.0
Aaron et al. 1961		204	10.3
Bach and Kiffe 1962		255	18.8
Graves et al. 1962		872	14.4
Mac Donald 1962		500	12.5
Spurway 1962		353	12.2
Camilleri 1963		4300	11.6
Heery 1963	1946-1951	226	13.3
Robertson 1964	1956-1962	496	14.0
Sparling 1967	1944-1962	192	14.0
Holtorf 1964	1951-1962	254	18.9
Eckart and Spenke 1970		268	12.1
Gizowski 1935	1915-1925	174	23.6
Krasucka and Zalewska 1957	1951-1956	234	23.0
Sternadel	1923-1962	740	28.0
Slomko and Kuczynski 1965a	1958-1964	467	13.4
Sternadel	1963-1965	42	11.8
Metler et al. (present research)	1953-1972	619	21.8
Total		16285	17.5

Table 2. *Perinatal Mortality Rate and Birth Weight in Multiple Pregnancy* (Personal observation)

Period	1953-1957		1958-1962		1963-1967		1968-1972		Total		
Total no. of deliveries	184		122		127		186		619		
Birth weight	Live-born	Dead after delivery	Live-born	Dead after delivery	Live-born	Dead after delivery	Live-born	Dead after delivery	Live-born	Dead after delivery	%
< 1000	42	39	26	24	26	25	54	54	148	142	95.9
1001-1500	20	13	20	14	20	13	24	21	84	61	72.6
1501-2000	52	12	34	7	36	5	64	9	186	33	17.7
2001-2500	106	13	62	4	70	5	98	4	336	26	7.7
2501-3000	96	3	56	1	66	2	76	2	294	8	2.7
> 3000	52	0	46	0	36	0	56	1	190	1	0.5
Total	368	80	214	50	254	50	372	95	1238	271	21.9
Prenatal deaths	12		3		7		17		39		3.1
Intranatal deaths	17		4		5		7		33		2.7
Postnatal deaths	47		42		37		72		198		16.0
All causes	76		49		49		96		270		21.8