

COMPLICATIONS OF MULTIPLE PREGNANCY

Observations on the Danzig Population over Twenty Years

St. METLER, S. METLER, J. RUDZINSKI, W. MIERZEJEWSKI

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Academy of Medicine, Danzig, Poland

The complications of multiple pregnancy have been studied in a total of 619 cases of multiple pregnancies followed in the Danzig Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 1953 to 1972. On the basis of the results obtained, early hospitalization is recommended in cases of multiple pregnancies.

In the period 1.01.1953 to 30.06.1972, a total of 69,102 deliveries (among which 619 from multiple pregnancies) took place in the First Maternity and Gynecological Clinic — now the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Academy of Medicine in Danzig. The results are shown in the Table. It may be observed that the most frequent complications of pregnancy during this period were: toxemia of pregnancy, preeclamptic conditions, eclampsia, hemorrhage, heart disease, polyhydramnios, pyelitis, and immature and premature deliveries, followed by a very high mortality rate. On the basis of our analysis, early hospitalization is recommended in cases of multiple pregnancy.

Table. *Complications of Multiple Pregnancy* (% values)

Period	1953-1957		1958-1962		1963-1967		1968-1972		Total	
No. of twin births	184		122		127		186		619	
Parity	P	M	P	M	P	M	P	M	P	M
Toxemia	30	29.1	48.8	28.5	35.4	22.7	39.2	31.7	38.2	28.4
Status preeclampticus	10	3.7	22.2	7.8	8.3	1.2	5.0	1.8	10.4	3.5
Eclampsia	2	0	0	0	4.2	0	0	0.9	1.3	0.2
Polyhydramnios	6	8.9	8.8	1.3	0	0	2.5	4.6	3.9	4.5
Hemorrhage	2	0.7	0	3.9	2.1	3.6	5.1	3.7	2.6	2.7
Pyelonephritis	0	0	0	2.6	2.1	0	0	1.9	0.4	1.0
Heart disease	2	0	2.2	1.3	2.1	1.2	0	0	1.3	0.5
Mortality :										
in immatures (up to the 28th week)	96.9	100.0		100.0		100.0		98.9		
in prematures (28th-36th week)	44.1	43.7		27.2		34.3		36.4		

Dr. St. Metler, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Academy of Medicine, ul. Kliniczna 1a, 80-402 Gdansk, Poland.