

MORBIDITIES, RATE AND TIME TRENDS OF NEONATAL MORTALITY IN DILCHORA REFERRAL HOSPITAL, DIRE DAWA, ETHIOPIA, 2012- 2017

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Introduction: The study assessed causes of admission, the rate and time trends of neonatal mortality in DilChora referral hospital, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, 2013-2017.

Methods: A hospital based 5 years retrospective study was conducted among neonates admitted to NICU from Jan'2013 to Sep' 2017 in DilChora hospital, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia. Data was abstracted from Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Registration logbook by four data collectors. It was coded, and entered in to Epi Data version 3.02 and exported to SPSS version 20 for analysis. Descriptive statistics was used to describe the frequency, mean and standard deviations.

Results: A total of 3418 neonates were admitted to NICU from January 1/2013 to September 10/2017 and 391 neonatal deaths were registered. This indicated that the overall neonatal mortality rate was 11.44%. Suspected sepsis (35.31%), prematurity (19.05%), respiratory distress (15.27%) and perinatal asphyxia (12.73) were the leading causes of admission (more than 82%) to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The major causes of neonatal mortality were complications of prematurity 97 (24.8%), infection 125 (31.97%) and birth asphyxia (22.25%). Neonatal mortality rate in NICU had sharp decline from 2013 to 2015, but the after it was almost constant and slightly increasing.

Conclusion: Suspected sepsis, prematurity, respiratory distress and perinatal asphyxia were the leading causes of admission to NICU while sepsis, prematurity and birth asphyxia were the major causes of neonatal deaths. There was steady little declining in neonatal mortality between 2013 and 2015, but then after, it was slightly increasing up to 2017. Future studies are required to investigate the factors contributing to the neonatal mortality and trends in Dire Dawa, Eastern Ethiopia.

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