ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study investigates most significant risk factors for Birth Asphyxia. This cross-sectional hospital based study consists of 725 newborns, which are admitted to the neonatal care units of Children hospital and General Hospital Lahore during the period of Feb to July 2005. Confirmed cases of birth asphyxia constitute 48% of admissions in neonatal unit. Detailed history is taken by questionnaire. Chi-squared (χ^2) test is used to assess statistical significance with disease and multiple logistic regression model is used to get the most significant factors and probability of risk prediction of the model with disease. Logistic regression technique is also used on three groups; social, maternal and baby factors individually. Late cry after birth & cyanosis are the presenting complaints in majority of babies. In overall analysis; maternal age (OR=1.149, P=. 028), anemic mother (OR=5.803, P=. 025), mode of delivery (OR=0.066, P=.008), delay cry (OR=187205.454, P=.000), baby's age of examined (OR1=26.882, P=.005; OR2=31.121, P=.007) and father's education (OR=26.289, P=.003) are associated with higher incidence of asphyxia. There is some difference of significant risk factors in male, female and overall babies with disease like as maternal age, any other illness in mother and instrumental mode of delivery significant in all babies; govt. hospital delivery significant in male babies, number of pregnancy significant in female babies. It shows that incidence of birth asphyxia is due to several risk factors as in this study delay cry of baby, anemic mother and educational status of parents are the main causes of birth asphyxia.