

Pilot Study of an Indicator to Measure Intrapartum Stillbirth and Immediate Neonatal Death (ISINDI)

Department: Community Health Sciences

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Objective:

We were interested in determining the feasibility of introducing a simple indicator of quality of obstetric and neonatal care and determining the proportion of potentially avoidable perinatal deaths in hospitals in low-income countries.

Methods:

This study was conducted in 6 hospitals in 4 low-income countries using a Doptone to detect fetal heart tones on admission.

Results:

We demonstrated that it is possible to accurately determine fetal viability on admission and to determine the proportion of perinatal deaths potentially avoidable by improvements in hospital care. Data from this study suggest that the Doptone was used on 97% of admissions and, of the perinatal deaths, 40 to 45% occurred in the hospital and were potentially preventable by better hospital care.

Conclusion:

This indicator, implemented with a Doptone and a concise record as occurred in this study, could serve as the basis of a low-cost and sustainable program to monitor and evaluate efforts to improve quality of care and ultimately help to reduce the in-hospital component of perinatal mortality in low-income countries.