

Abstract

The study was conducted at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) and the Victoria Jubilee Hospital (VJH).

Risk factors for caesarean section were looked at in relation to primiparas who delivered at both UHWI and VJH January - February, 1996. A total of 249 primiparas were interviewed making use of a 28 item questionnaire developed for the purpose.

The results indicate that both UHWI and VJH had different rates for caesarean section. There was a statistical significance between primiparas who had medical complications with their pregnancy and caesarean section ($p < 0.01$). Caesarean sections were done most frequently for "failure to progress" at UHWI, while at VJH the hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and "failure to progress" had equal proportion.

A relationship existed between the gestation of pregnancy and the time the mother attended for antenatal care and caesarean section.

The study points to the need to develop a written protocol for care of the primigravid mother, thus assisting in the uniformity and maintenance of quality care, also to conduct a research at both institutions to determine the relationship between the amount of antenatal care, caesarean section and infant outcome.