

Introduction

***The neonatal period is defined as the first 28 days of the extrauterine life. Surgery during this period consists largely of the treatment of congenital anomalies .**

(Spitz , 1990)

*** Congenital malformations today are the main cause of death in the neonatal period . For example in the U.S.A, 21% of neonatal mortality can be related to congenital malformations . In Germany nearly 8000 infants are born every year with a life – threatening malformation .**

(Dietrich et al., 1996)

*** Approximately 3% of human newborns presents with congenital malformations . Without surgical intervention, one-third of these infants would die, since their malformations are not compatible with sustained life outside the uterus .**

(Nadler , 1986)

*** The incidence of birth trauma is reported to be 2 – 8 per 1000 live births . Paediatric surgeon must be familiar with the treatment of such life – threatening neonatal injury .**

(Kottmeier , 1986)

*** Due to the development of diagnostic procedures , advanced surgical techniques and intensive neonatal care both preoperatively and postoperatively , most infants with life-threatening malformations or trauma can satisfactorily be managed by surgery in the neonatal period .**

(Dietrich et al., 1996)

*** The successful outcome of a neonatal surgery depends not only on the skill of the paediatric surgeon , but also on that of a large team consisting of**

paediatrician , anaesthetist, radiologist, pathologist , biochemist , nurse and other necessary for dealing with newborn subjected to surgery.

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Donn et al., 1985)

* With better understanding of neonatal physiology and improvements in diagnostic facilities and neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) , the outcome of neonatal surgery has improved in developed countries . In developing countries , however , neonatal surgery is problematic particularly in the emergency setting The mortality was 30 - 66% due to overwhelming infection , respiratory insufficiency , multiple anomalies . Other factors considered to have contributed to morbidity and mortality were late referral and presentation and a lack of NICUs . Thus, emergency neonatal surgery is attended by high morbidity and mortality at the present time . Early referral and presentation and provision of NICUs should improve the outcome .

(Ameh, et al., 2001)