

Time to Cure from Obstetric Fistula and Its Associated Factors among Women Admitted to Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital, Addis Ababa Ethiopia: A Survival Analysis

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Abstract : Background: Obstetric fistula (OF) is a serious medical condition that includes an abnormal opening between the vagina and bladder (vesico-vaginal fistula) or the vagina and rectum (recto-vaginal fistula). It is usually caused by prolonged obstructed labour. Despite its serious health and psychosocial consequences, there is a paucity of evidence regarding the time it takes to heal from OF. Objective: The aim of this study was to assess the time to cure from obstetric fistula and its predictors among women admitted to Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Methodology: An institution-based retrospective cohort study was conducted from January 2015 to December 2020 among a randomly selected 434 women with OF in Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital. Data was collected using a structured checklist adapted from a similar study. The open data kit (ODK) collected data was exported and analyzed by using STATA (14.2). Kaplan Meir was used to compare the recovery time from OF. To identify the predictors of OF, a Cox regression model was fitted, and an adjusted hazard ratio with a 95% confidence interval was used to estimate the strength of the associations. Results: The average time to recover from obstetric fistula was 3.95 (95% CI: 3.0-4.6) weeks. About ¾ of the women [72.8% (95% CI - 0.65-1.2)] were physically cured of obstetric fistula. Having secondary education and above [AHR=3.52; 95% CI (1.98, 6.25)] compared to no formal education, having a live birth [AHR=1.64; 95% CI (1.22, 2.21)], having an intact bladder [AHR=2.47; 95% CI (1.1, 5.54)] compared to totally destructed, and having a grade 1 fistula [AHR=1.98; 95% CI (1.19, 3.31)] compared to grade 3 were the significant predictors of shorter time to cure from an obstetric fistula. Conclusion and recommendation: Overall, the proportion of women with OF who were not being cured was unacceptably high. The time it takes for them to recover from the fistula was also extended. It connotes us to work on the identified predictors to improve the time to recovery from OF.

Keywords : time to recovery, obstetric fistula, predictors, Ethiopia

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