Assessment of risk factors for stillbirth among pregnant women in Jamaica.

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Abstract

A case - control study was conducted to assess the risk factors of stillbirth among pregnant women in Jamaica. A total of 314 women participated (160 with stillborn babies and 154 with live-born babies). A questionnaire designed to collect information on sociodemographic characteristics, antenatal care, medical and sexually transmitted disease (STD) history, method of delivery and infant birth and health status was administered to each woman. Medical records were reviewed to verify medical history. Six variables were found to be significant predictors of stillbirth by multivariate logistic regression. Low birth weight (OR = 4.3, CI = 2.4 - 7.7), complications during pregnancy or delivery (OR = .19, CI = 0.09 - 0.41), method of delivery (caesarean section; OR = 7.2, CI = 1.6 - 33.2), number of living children (OR = 0.54, CI = 0.40 - 0.73), number of antenatal visits (less than three; OR = 2.0, CI = 1.3 - 3.1), and presence of unfavourable and /or adverse fetal outcome (OR = 4.0, CI = 1.8 - 9.2) were found to be associated with stillbirth. These findings have important implications in establishing policies for prenatal care in Jamaica.