Maternal death in "3rd delay": *Never again!*

Dr Samba Cor SARR - Dr Abdoulaye DIAW - Dr Oumy NDIAYE - Mr Idrissa NIASSY
Mr Massamba Thioro SALL - Mrs Binta Demba SARR - Dr Zeyni El Abidine SY

The immediate reception of the patient and their entourage is the first care

Context

Maternal deaths are a major public health problem in Senegal. The care of pregnant women in maternity wards is not always carried out within a timeframe that allows the mother and child to be saved. This delay in caring for parturients, commonly known as 3rd delay, is often found to be the cause of obstetric complications and the cause of maternal and/or neonatal deaths.

What about it?

What are the solutions to stop this phenomenon?

« Modèle des trois retards » (Thaddeus and Maine, 1994)

Objectives

- To determine the effects of the "3rd delay" in the occurrence of obstetric complications, maternal and neonatal deaths.
- To determine the influence of the working environment of SONUB/SONUC staff in the occurrence of the "3rd delay".
- To show the importance of communication in emergency situations in the management of women in labour.

Methodology

A review of electronic and print media, grey literature and scientific publications.

Results

Effects of the "3rd delay" in the occurrence of obstetrical complications, maternal and neonatal deaths

- Several hours of waiting by parturients in maternity wards without care;
- Family distress ;
- Risk of legal prosecution of health workers.

The influence of the working environment of SONUB/SONUC staff in the occurrence of of the "3rd delay".

Use of on-site facilities to avoid staff leaving the premises and disrupting service continuity

Have "Small Equipment" available; Pinard stethoscope and Doppler to check the baby's heartbeat, thermometer and blood pressure monitor to measure the mother's vital signs, clean scissors to cut the umbilical cord, mats, cushions and birthing chairs for free positioning, posters and flip chart. The provision of these small items improves care.

The importance of emergency communication in the care of women in labour

In the medical field, health professionals tend to unconsciously adopt an authoritarian attitude. Through the experiential learning of "listening", participants learn to be aware of the process and attitude of care. Through dialogue, listening and valuing oneself and the other members of the group, the essence of care can be seen.

"The reception of the patient and his or her entourage is the first step of care. Its quality influences the future relationship. It is the link that allows them to express themselves throughout their stay and encourages a climate of trust.

Discussion and Conclusion

The concept of the "three delays" is used to analyse the determinants of maternal mortality. While the first two are community-based, or other sector-based, the "3rd delay" is almost exclusively health sector-based.

Maternal deaths due to the "3rd delay" are preventable.

All health personnel must strictly adhere to :

- The permanent availability of SONUB/SONUC services for optimal care in maternity wards.
- Allow time for reception
- Develop an attitude of empathy which is a guarantee of satisfaction and adherence to treatment;
- Take into account social conventions and beliefs in the organisation of space and care of the woman in labour;
- Create a climate of trust with the women in labour and those accompanying them through good interpersonal communication.

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