

**DELAYS IN
EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC REFERRALS
AND OUTCOMES
IN CENTRAL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, YANGON**

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ABSTRACT

Adverse maternal and fetal outcome was not only due to obstetric causes but also due to complex social factors which make them delays to get timely and appropriate care. Addressing and responding to the causes of delays in emergency obstetric care would provide to improve maternal and fetal outcomes. Hospital based quantitative and qualitative study was done to assess delays in emergency obstetric referrals and outcomes in Central Women's Hospital (CWH), Yangon from April 2022 to July 2022. Data collection was done by face to face interview among the 170 patients at the second and third day after delivery by using semi-structured questionnaires. For qualitative data collection, 3 Key Informant Interviews (KII) were carried out. The study found that more than half of present pregnancies were unintended, lack of awareness on emergency situation and lack of plan for emergency care. The average duration of time for seeking care (145 minutes), reaching care (53 minutes) and receiving care (11 minutes) were seen in this study. Nearly half (47.1%) of pregnant women faced with delays in seeking care, nearly one fourth (24.7%) of pregnant women met with delays in reaching care. Only (7.1%) of pregnant women experienced delays in receiving care. Majority (60%) of pregnant women had experienced at least one of the three delays. Two delays were (14.1%) and pregnant women who had experienced all three delays were (2.4%). One patient was done subtotal abdominal hysterectomy and there was no maternal mortality in this study. Early neonatal death (1.8%) and still birth (0.6%) was seen in this study. Mode of delivery and delays in seeking care were significantly associated ($p=0.028$) when analyzed by chi square test. Mean duration of hospital stay was longer in women with delays in reaching care than the women without delays and the difference was significant ($p=0.014$) when analyzing with student t test. There was significant association ($p=0.007$) between fetal birth weight and delays in reaching care by fisher exact test. Moreover, qualitative study also described shortage in health workforce and activities by rotation of teams to cover the functions of emergency obstetric department. And this study also described perceptions of health care providers to emergency obstetric care and their suggestions for improvement of emergency obstetric care. Because of this research, we might be got the facts that how to manage emergency obstetric care and how to overcome the three delays.