REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF WOMEN IN A RURAL HEALTH CENTRE IN THE CONGO

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SUMMARY

Introduction: Gender inequalities remain a cause of great concern in Congo. The impact on maternal health, particularly in rural areas, reflects this.

Objectives: Describe the epidemiological profile of reproductive health-related diseases in women in a rural health center in Congo.

Patients and methods: Descriptive cross-sectional study from January to September 2019 at the Centre de santé de Bétou, in Likouala, Congo. Women aged 13 to 45 years received for a reproductive health problem were included. Data were collected from the registers and processed using MS Excel®.

Results: A total of 2127 women were included. Of these, 1063 came at least to the first prenatal consultation (49.7%), 994 (44.19%) for a birth and 70 for gender-based violence. Pregnancies were pathological in 15.46% of cases (n=329). Sexually transmitted infections were found in 11.8% (n=251) of pregnant women. HIV test coverage was 4.6% (n=98). The caesarean section rate was 11.06%. Maternal and neonatal deaths represented 696/100,000 and 22.3/1000 live births respectively. Rape constituted 41.4% of cases of gender-based violence (n=29).

Conclusion: This work shows high morbidity and mortality among pregnant women in Bétou, low coverage of HIV testing and a high rate of rape. The availability of qualified human and material resources is a challenge.

Keywords: Reproductive health; maternal health, rural area, Congo