

D-1501

Abstract.

Birth is the transition of intrauterine life to extra uterine life. All babies need a warm welcome and a vigilant observation immediately after birth. The initial cry of the baby is the cry of health and Apgar score is used to assess the baby's condition because it is the traditional index for asphyxia.

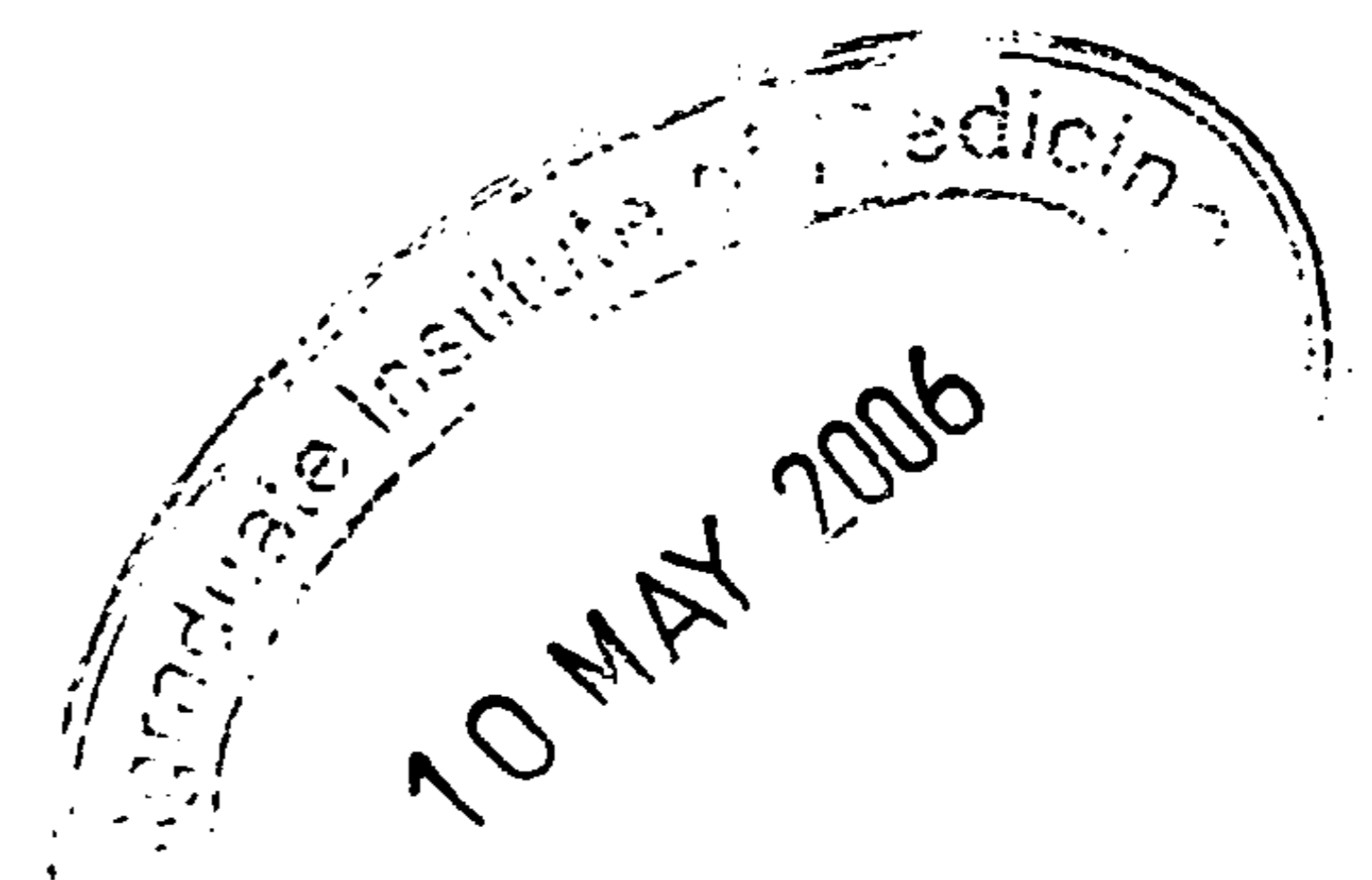
This study looked at the risk factors for the Apgar score. They were broadly categorized as maternal and foetal as well as sociodemographic. It is a hospital based case control study done at the Colombo South Teaching Hospital during the period of August to December 2004.

The proportion of infants with low Apgar score was found to be 11.6%. The low birth weight was found to be a major risk factor for low Apgar score (OR=4.72). An emergency cesarean had a 50% chance of getting a baby with low Apgar score and it was only 14% in an elective section. Babies born before 28 weeks of gestation did not have a normal Apgar score in the present study.

Rhesus incompatibility (OR=1.9), maternal nutrition, diseases like gestational diabetes (OR=5.2) and pregnancy induced hypertension (OR=6.5) were also found to be important risk factors. Also it was found becoming a singleton is a protecting factor rather than becoming a low Apgar score baby.

In spite of these factors it was found that working mothers as well as less educated mothers are at a greater risk of getting a baby with a low Apgar score.

Therefore it is recommended to improve the facts focused on the study to decrease the risk of getting a low Apgar score baby.



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