

**Neonatal Heart Failure in Lagos University Teaching Hospital
Nigeria.**

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SUMMARY

Background: Heart failure in the neonate is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in the developing world. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence, specific aetiology, outcome and to highlight some short term factors affecting outcome among cases of heart failure admitted into the neonatal wards of Lagos University Teaching Hospital(LUTH), Lagos Nigeria.

Methods: Forty-four consecutive cases of heart failure admitted into the neonatal wards of Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Lagos with diagnosis of heart failure over one year period was studied prospectively. Diagnosis of heart failure was based on the presence of at least three of the four cardinal signs of heart failure: tachycardia, tachypnoea, tender hepatomegaly and Cardiomegaly. All cases were followed up daily till a definite outcome was determined.

Results: Neonatal heart failure constituted 2.7% of the total neonatal admissions during the study period. The predominant underlying causes were severe anaemia (34.1%), neonatal sepsis (22.7%), and congenital heart disease (20.5%). Other causes were perinatal asphyxia (13.6%), and acute respiratory infections (9.1%). There was a case-fatality rate of 27% among the study population.factors influencing outcome were age below 24hours or above seven days, neonates delivered outside LUTH(outborns), and late presentation to hospital after seven days of illness.

Conclusion: Heart failure in Nigerian neonates though mostly due to preventable causes, are associated with an unacceptably high mortality.