

**ORIGINAL RESEARCH:****Correlation between response time and infant outcome in pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing caesarean section in two tertiary hospitals****Raditya Ery Pratama,<sup>1</sup> M Ardian CL<sup>2\*</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Ibnu Sina Hospital, Gresik, Indonesia, <sup>2</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Dr Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya, Indonesia**ABSTRACT**

**Objectives:** This study aimed to illustrate the response time of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing caesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital and Universitas Airlangga Hospital during 2015-2017.

**Materials and Methods:** This was a non-experimental descriptive observational study using medical records at dr. Soetomo Hospital and Universitas Airlangga Hospital during 2015-2017. Samples of the study were enrolled using total sampling.

**Results:** Data at dr. Soetomo Hospital revealed 103 patients: the age characteristics of >30 year were 48 patients (38%), underlying diseases with hypertension 68 cases (66%), use of general anesthesia with 65 cases (63%). Caesarean section response time >30 minutes was in 85 cases (83%), from which 58 babies (56.3%) had severe asphyxia. At Universitas Airlangga Hospital there were 5 patients, from whom those of 20-30 years were 4 (80%), and those with underlying diseases of hypertension were 3 patients (60%), and those using general anesthesia were 4 (80%). caesarean section response time of >30 minutes were in 3 cases (60%) where all 5 babies (100%) had moderate asphyxia. Age data processing with Chi-square test revealed  $p = 0.534$  ( $p > 0.05$ ), indicating no significant relationship between age group with fetal outcome. Response time of the caesarean section showed  $p = 0.027$  ( $p < 0.05$ ), indicating significant relationship between caesarean section response time and fetal outcome.

**Conclusion:** Response time of pregnant women with fetal distress performed caesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital and Universitas Airlangga Hospital period 2015-2017 was still more than 30 minutes and the baby's was found to have moderate-severe asphyxia. These were due to delayed informed consent, patient stabilization, as well as anesthesia, operating room and pediatrics preparation.

**Keywords:** Pregnant women with fetal distress; response time; baby outcome

**ABSTRAK**

**Tujuan:** Mengetahui hubungan waktu respon pasien gawat janin yang dilakukan seksio sesarea dengan luaran bayi di RSUD dr. Soetomo dan di RS Universitas Airlangga Surabaya periode tahun 2015-2017.

**Bahan dan Metode:** Metode non eksperimental (observasional) deskriptif menggunakan rekam medis RSUD dr. Soetomo dan RS Universitas Airlangga Surabaya tahun 2015-2017. Pengambilan sampel penelitian menggunakan total sampling.

**Hasil:** Dari data di RSUD dr Soetomo didapatkan 103 pasien, karakteristik usia >30 tahun 48 pasien (38%), penyakit terbanyak ibu hamil yaitu hipertensi 68 kasus (66%). Anestesi yang paling banyak digunakan yaitu general 65 kasus (63%). Waktu respon diambilnya keputusan sampai lahirnya bayi >30 menit yaitu 85 kasus (83%), dimana 58 bayi (56,3%) asfiksia berat. Sementara di RS. Universitas Airlangga didapatkan 5 pasien dengan karakteristik: usia 20-30 tahun sebanyak 4 pasien (80%), penyakit mendasari ibu hamil yaitu hipertensi 3 pasien (60%). Penggunaan anestesi terbanyak dengan general 4 kasus (80%), waktu respon >30 menit sebanyak 3 kasus (60%) dengan 5 bayi (100%) asfiksia sedang. Pengolahan data dengan Chi-square didapatkan nilai  $p = 0,534$  ( $p > 0,05$ ) diartikan tidak ada hubungan signifikan kelompok umur dengan luaran janin, sementara waktu respon operasi seksio nilai  $p = 0,027$  ( $p < 0,05$ ), diartikan terdapat hubungan signifikan waktu respon operasi seksio pada bayi gawat janin dengan luarannya.

**Simpulan:** Waktu respon pasien hamil dengan gawat janin yang dilakukan operasi seksio di RSUD dr. Soetomo dan RS Universitas Airlangga periode tahun 2015-2017 masih kurang, yaitu >30 menit. Luaran bayi banyak mengalami asfiksia sedang-berat. Hal ini disebabkan antara lain hambatan pengambilan informed consent, stabilisasi pasien, persiapan anestesi, persiapan ruang operasi dan persiapan pediatri.

**Kata kunci:** Ibu hamil dengan gawat janin; waktu respon; luaran bayi

**\*Correspondence:** M. Ardian CL, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Dr Soetomo Hospital, Jalan Prof dr Moestopo 6-8, Surabaya 60286, Indonesia. E-mail: m.ardian@fk.unair.ac.id

pISSN:0854-0381 • eISSN: 2598-1013 • doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.20473/mog.V29I12021.1-5>

• Maj Obs Gin. 2021;29:1-6 • Received 24 Nov 2020 • Revised 6 Jan 2021 • Accepted 22 Jan 2021

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## INTRODUCTION

Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) are indicators of health development in the 2015-2019 National Mid-Term Development Plan and the SDGs. According to the Indonesian Health Data Survey, the Maternal Mortality Rate has decreased in the period 1994-2012, namely in 1994 of 390 per 100,000 live births, in 1997 it was 334 per 100,000 live births, in 2002 it was 307 per 100,000 live births, and in 2007 amounting to 228 per 100,000 live births. However, in 2012 the Maternal Mortality Rate increased again to 359 per 100,000 live births. In the IDHS 2012, the Infant Mortality Rate shows 32/1,000 live births (IDHS 2012), and in 2015, the 2015 Basic Health Research showed a decrease in MMR and IMR (MMR 305/100,000 live births; IMR 23/1000 live births). The highest cause of maternal mortality in 2016 was bleeding (32%) and 26% due to hypertension which causes seizures, and pregnancy poisoning so that the mother dies.<sup>1</sup>

Infant Mortality Rate is an indicator commonly used to determine the level of public health, both at provincial and national levels. IMR refers to the number of babies who die in the phase between birth and before reaching age 1 year per 1,000 live births. Currently, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Indonesia is the highest compared to other ASEAN countries. According to 2007 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS) data, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Indonesia is 34 per 1000 live births (Ministry of Health, 2009). According to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia in 2008, one of the causes of newborn mortality is asphyxia (27%) which is the second cause of death for newborns after LBW. In 2009, the incidence of asphyxia in the world according to the World Health Organization (WHO) was 19%.<sup>1</sup>

This high maternal and infant mortality rate is due to the lack of health services in Indonesia. This is related to human resources (health workers), health infrastructure (health facilities), and the level of awareness of women of reproductive age in Indonesia regarding pregnancy planning and reproductive health. One of the factors associated with incorrect health services is the response time in diagnosing diseases of a pregnant woman and making decisions regarding the delivery process that will be taken. In general, the problems faced in meeting the response time are preparation for surgery (from informed consent to the operating room), anesthesia consultation, transportation of patients to the operating room, preparation for anesthesia, waiting time for the effectiveness of anesthetic action, the presence of operating personnel (obstetricians, anesthetists, pediatri-

cians/neonatal officers, and surgical nurses) and the operation team cooperation.<sup>2</sup>

Decision to delivery interval (DDI) or response time is defined as the time interval in minutes from the time of cesarean section decision until the baby is born. The NICE RCOG (Royal College of Obstetrician and Gynecologist) Caesarean Section Guidelines states that the response time for category 1 cesarean section is 30 minutes and category 2 is between 30-75 minutes.<sup>3</sup>

In Indonesia, especially at dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya and at Universitas Airlangga Hospital Surabaya, there was no data on the response time of caesarea section in fetal distress patients. This study aims to determine the response time of cesarean section in fetal distress patients in both hospitals in order to reduce infant mortality.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was an observational analytic study with cross-sectional design using medical records at dr. Soetomo and Universitas Airlangga Hospitals, Surabaya, Indonesia, in 2015-2017. The sample of this study was taken by total random sampling of all pregnant women with fetal distress who then underwent emergency cesarean section in 2015-2017. Furthermore, from these data the response time was calculated from the decision to operate until the birth of the baby based on the classification in Figure 1 in the process of delivery of fetal distress, which lasts 30 minutes.

## RESULTS

### **Characteristics of the age of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya**

From 2015-2017 pregnant women with fetal distress who underwent cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya, were as many as 103 patients with the characteristics of mostly aged >30 years (48 patients or 47% of all cases), then 20-30 years of age of 40 patients (38%) and the least were 15 patients (15%) aged of <20 years.

### **Characteristics of the age of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at Universitas Airlangga Hospital**

Between 2015-2017 pregnant women with fetal distress who underwent cesarean section at Universitas Airlangga Hospital, Surabaya were 5 patients with

mostly 20-30 years of age (4 or 80% of all cases), then 1 case of age >30 years (20%) and there were no patients aged <20 years.



Figure 1. Age characteristics of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya

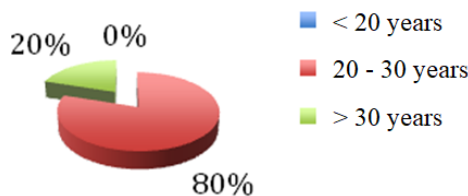


Figure 2. Age characteristics of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at Universitas Airlangga Hospital

**Characteristics of diseases of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya**

These data indicate that the most fetal distress cases occurred in pregnant women with hypertension (68 cases/66%) and total placenta previa with bleeding in 4 cases (4%), and 7 cases of heart disease (7%).

Table 1. Disease characteristics of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya

No	Type of disease	Total
1	Hypertension	68
2	APB ec PPT	4
3	Heart disease	7
4	DM	2
5	Others	22
Total		103

**Characteristics of disease in pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at Universitas Airlangga Hospital**

Three out of five cases of fetal distress pregnant women suffered from hypertension, whereas premature rupture of membranes was found in one case, and malpresentation of vertex position in one case.

Table 2. Disease characteristics of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at Universitas Airlangga Hospital

No	Type of disease	Total
1	Hypertension	3
2	PRM	1
3	Malpresentation	1
Total		5

**Selection of anesthesia for pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya**

Cesarean section procedure in pregnant women with fetal distress can be performed with two choices of anesthesia, the general anesthesia and regional anesthesia. This study found 63% of the cases underwent cesarean section using general anesthesia, while 37% used regional anesthesia.

Table 3. Selection of anesthesia for pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya

No	Type of Anesthesia	Total
1	General Anesthesia	65 (63%)
2	Regional Anesthesia	38 (37%)
Total		103

**Selection of the type of anesthesia for pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at Universitas Airlangga Hospital**

Cesarean section in pregnant women with fetal distress can be performed with 2 choices of anesthesia, the general anesthesia and regional anesthesia. It was found that 80% of caesarean sections were performed with general anesthesia, while 20% used regional anesthesia.

Table 4. Selection of types of anesthesia for pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section at Universitas Airlangga Hospital

No	Type of Anesthesia	Total
1	General Anesthesia	4 (80%)
2	Regional Anesthesia	1 (20%)
Total		5

### Response time of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing emergency cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya

This study found that the response time for the implementation of cesarean section in pregnant women with fetal distress mostly (83%) still needed >30 minutes, while the remaining 17% required <30 minutes.

Table 5. Response times of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing emergency cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya

No	Response Time	Total
1	< 30 minutes	18 (17%)
2	> 30 minutes	85 (83%)
Total		103

### Response time of pregnant women patients with fetal distress undergoing emergency cesarean section at Universitas Airlangga Hospital

This study found that the response time for the implementation of cesarean section in pregnant women with fetal distress was mostly (60%) more than >30 minutes, while the remaining 40% was performed <30 minutes.

Table 6. Response times of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing emergency cesarean section at Universitas Airlangga Hospital

No	Response Time	Total
1	< 30 minutes	2 (40%)
2	> 30 minutes	3 (60%)
Total		5

### Infant outcome from pregnant women with fetal distress at dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya

Most of infant outcomes from mothers with fetal distress who undergoing cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya was severe asphyxia with Apgar Score 1-3 in 58 cases (56.3%), moderate asphyxia in 37 cases (35.9%), and mild asphyxia in 10 cases (9.7%).

Table 7. Infant outcomes from cases of fetal distress at dr. Soetomo Hospital Surabaya

No	APGAR Scores	Total
1	Mild asphyxia (7-10)	10 (9,7%)
2	Moderate asphyxia (4-6)	37 (35,9%)
3	Severe asphyxia (1-3)	58 (56,3%)
Total		103

Table 8. Infant outcomes from cases of fetal distress in dr. Universitas Airlangga Hospital.

No	Nilai APGAR	Jumlah
1	Mild asphyxia (7-10)	0
2	Moderate asphyxia (4-6)	5
3	Severe asphyxia (1-3)	0
Total		5

## DISCUSSION

### Characteristics of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section and infant output at dr. Soetomo Hospital, Surabaya

In this study, at dr. Soetomo Hospital we found that, from 103 patients, most of them were in the age range of >30 years, which were as many as 48 patients (47%), and the gestational age was mostly less than 37 weeks (premature), which was in 55 patients (53%). This was related to the underlying disease of the pregnant women, the hypertension, so that the delivery process did not wait for a full-term pregnancy. The babies were born at 34-37 weeks of gestation.<sup>4</sup>

As many as 66% of fetal distress cases occurred in mothers with hypertension and 12% in mothers with total placenta previa accompanied by bleeding. Apart from hypertension, total placenta previa, especially those with active flux, often results in fetal distress incidence. Hypertension is closely related to the incidence of chronic utero-placental flow insufficiency which may cause intrauterine fetal hypoxia, resulting in decreased fetal heart rate, leading to fetal emergency. In total placenta praevia totalis that is accompanied by bleeding, there is acute insufficiency of utero-placental flow which may lead to fetal distress.<sup>4</sup>

The most common type of anesthesia was general anesthesia which was performed in 65 patients (63%) compared to regional anesthesia in 38 patients (37%). Of the two types of anesthesia, general anesthesia is the main choice of anesthesia in cesarean section of pregnant women with fetal distress because general anesthesia does not require a long time to start the incision when compared to regional anesthesia.<sup>6</sup>

Response time for the implementation of cesarean section at dr. Soetomo Hospital was >30 minutes, which was experienced by 85 patients (83%) while patients who underwent the operation for <30 minutes were 18 (17%). This differs from the defined time for classification of grade 1 emergency cesarean section in other cases, such as those with fetal bradycardia, umbilical cord prolapse, uterine rupture, placental abruption and pathological cardiotocography, which

may take 30 minutes.<sup>6</sup> The infant outcome at dr. Soetomo Hospital for the period 2015-2017 showed that most of the infants experienced severe asphyxia, consisting of 57 patients (56.3%).

### **Characteristics of pregnant women with fetal distress undergoing cesarean section and infant outcomes at Universitas Airlangga Hospital**

In Universitas Airlangga Hospital, most patients had an age range of 20-30 years, as many as 4 patients (80%). All patients had gestational age at term (>37 weeks). The most common disease among pregnant women was hypertension in 3 patients (60%). Although most of the patients had hypertension, the patients arrived at >37 weeks' gestation age so the pregnancy termination was carried out at that time.

Like at dr. Soetomo Hospital, in the most common type of anesthesia was general anesthesia in 4 patients (80%), while regional anesthesia was performed in 1 patient (20%). This is in accordance with a previous study which found that the choice of anesthesia in cesarean section in pregnant women with fetal distress is the general anesthesia because it does not require a long time to wait for the onset of drug action.<sup>6</sup>

Response time for cesarean section in the hospital. Universitas Airlangga was > 30 minutes in 3 patients (60%) and <30 minutes in 2 patients (40%). This differs from the time requirements for classification of grade 1 emergency cesarean section in cases including fetal bradycardia, umbilical cord prolapse, uterine rupture, placental abruption and pathological cardiotocography, which is 30 minutes.<sup>7</sup> Out of the baby at the hospital. Universitas Airlangga for the period 2015-2017 showed that all of them had moderate asphyxia.

### **Relation of response time for cesarean section with infant outcome**

Data processing response time for cesarean section has a value of  $p = 0.027$  ( $p < 0.05$ ) which shows a significant relationship between the response time of cesarean section in fetal distress infants with fetal output, while between age and outcome the baby does not show a significant relationship with  $p = 0.534$  ( $p > 0.05$ ).

One of the factors that can affect the response time in our study is related to the condition of the pregnant women when they arrived at the hospital.<sup>8-10</sup> From the data obtained from dr. Soetomo Hospital, there were 20 pregnant women with fetal distress and underlying hypertension (preeclampsia, eclampsia, chronic HT) accompanied by pulmonary edema, while there were as many as 20 patients with heart defects. This caused

delayed response time to carry out the procedure, which might be due to time needed to obtain supporting data such as laboratory examinations, chest radiographs and echocardiography. This additional examinations is highly necessary for the safety of the patient before surgery.<sup>11-15</sup> However, we did not obtain the data on the time needed for anesthetic preparations related to preoperative anesthesia, time to obtain effective action of the anesthetic agent, time for pediatrics time to arrive to the operating room, time for transportation for the patient to the operating room, and preparation time for the operating room, so this was a weakness of this study.

### **CONCLUSION**

The response time obtained this study from both hospitals was more than 30 minutes, which indicates a low response time. The outcome of infants in both hospitals that showed varying degrees of asphyxia indicated that a long response time (> 30 minutes) could have an effect on infant outcome. Further research is needed to analyze the response time associated with cesarean section in pregnant women with fetal distress using more valid and accurate data involving the time for anesthesia and pediatric preparation, patient transportation to the operating room, and preparation of the operating room.

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