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PREVALENCE OF DISORDERS OF SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEONATES IN GHANA

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Background & Aim: Genital anomalies including disorders of sexual development (DSDs) are prevalent in all societies. There is no study on DSDs in Ghana. We aimed to describe characteristics of abnormal genitalia and prevalence of DSDs in neonates delivered at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana.

Methods: Trained research assistants performed systematic genital examination in consecutive neonates over one year. All neonates with suspected abnormal genitalia were further examined by pediatric endocrinologists. Informed consent was obtained for all participants.

Results: A total of 10337 neonates (including 389 stillbirths) were delivered. We examined 9255 neonates (93% of all live births) within 72 hours of life. Normal genitalia were identified in 47.93% females and 51.86% males. Nineteen neonates

(0.21%) had disorders of sexual disorders (DSDs). Seven had ambiguous genitalia (four with clitoromegaly, presence of uterus on ultrasound and elevated 17-hydroxyprogesterone, suggesting CAH (Congenital adrenal hyperplasia). The remaining three had microphallus, gonads in bifid scrotum or in the inguinal region, suggesting male DSDs. The twelve other neonates had isolated micropenis (n=5) and isolated hypospadias (n=7) and were considered as males.

Conclusions: DSDs including CAH is not uncommon in Ghana and proper access to diagnostic tools and medicines is important.

Recommendation: All babies in low income countries should have genital examination at birth so as to identify DSDs and subtle anomalies of genitalia at birth.

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