

Abstract

The case notes of patients admitted with abortions to Kenyatta National Hospital between January 1, 1978, and June 30, 1978, were analyzed. A retrospective study of 1424 patients was undertaken. Attempt was made to determine whether the abortion was spontaneous or had been induced. 16% of the cases were found to be septic and were suspected of having been induced illegally. Septic patients were largely single adolescent girls having a 1st pregnancy. Of the nonseptic patients, 65% were married and 55% were in the 21-30 age group. Mean hospital stay was 39 hours for the nonseptic and 91 hours for the septic group. There occurred an average of 2 maternal mortalities/1000 abortion admissions, due to complications of septic abortion. All this data is tabulated. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies through increased provision of sex education and contraceptive supplies is recommended.