

Authors Reply

My comments on this piece of letter in reaction to the article “Incidence and Determinants of Stillbirth among Parturients in two hospitals in Southern Nigeria” published in *Journal of basic and clinical reproductive sciences* (2014;3:15-21)”. I have reviewed the letter and my comments are below: (1) The writer certainly is confusing issues and misconstrues that “Incidence” is only calculable for prospective studies and that it is not applicable to retrospective descriptive studies. (2) Rightly defined by him, incidence is the number

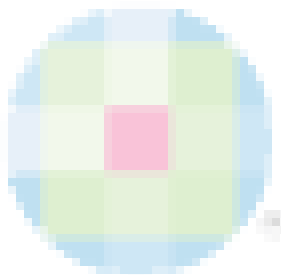
of new cases of a given disease during a given period in a specified population. It is trite that incidence is calculable for both prospective and retrospective studies and the essential elements of its applicability to studies are that such studies have a well-defined period as was applicable to this study in question (January 2007 and December 2011), there is a specified population (in this case, the study population included all parturients [booked and unbooked] who were managed within the study period in this center) and there

is convincing evidence that new cases occurred within the defined period and in the defined population (clearly there were cases of fetal death with clear documentations of the medical records of the patients and the huge facts that were analyzed in this study retrieved). (3) The issue of whether it is expressed in percentage or proportion is also misconstrued. Incidence may be expressed as rates in which case it is computed as percentage (as was done in this study) or may be expressed as proportion in which case

it is expressed as a proportion of the person years of the study (as reflected in fetal mortality rate in this study). Either is a standard and acceptable scientific way of reporting incidences of any disease of clinical entity.

Lawrence O Omo-Aghoja

*Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, College of Health Sciences,
Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria
E-mail: eguono_2000@yahoo.com*



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