NEONATAL SURGERY: DEMAND AND SURVIVAL BOTH ARE INCREASING: TEN YEARS EXPERIENCE IN DHAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, BANGLADESH

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Purpose: To achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 - a two-thirds reduction in under-five mortality from 1990 to 2015, major reductions are going to be required in neonatal mortality. Congenital anomalies have become the fourth cause of neonatal deaths and most of these are curable. Dhaka Medical College Hospital is the largest public hospital of the country and serving the poor and lower middle class people where surgery and medical facilities are mostly free of cost.

Materials & Methods: This was a retrospective study of 10 years from July 2001 to June 2011. A total of 862 neonates were admitted during this period and it was 18.61% of total number of 4,632 pediatric surgical admission up to 12 years.

Results: Out of these 862 neonates 82.48% were admitted for Neonatal Intestinal Obstruction (NIO) and omphalocele were 8.46%, ectopia vesicae 2.08%, posterior urethral valves 3.36%, gastroschisis 1.16%, congenital diaphragmatic hernia 2.08%, Tracheo-oesophageal fistula 0.23%, and Conjoint twin 1. The most common cause of NIO was anorectal malformation - 42.57%. Next was Hirschsprung disease and 19.83%. Total 87.94% patients were managed surgically. Out of 862 patients, 82 died, so mortality was 9.51% - before surgery 3.01%, after surgery 6.49%.

Conclusion: Pediatric surgeons by their skill and teamwork greatly improved the neonatal surgical service and contributing significantly in reducing infant mortality rate and to achieve MDG 4. To improve further, neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) as well as support from UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO) is required. Roll of pediatric surgeons are multidimensional in developing countries.