

Risk Factors for Preterm

The data were collected by the investigating physician and included details of socioeconomic status of the parents, professional and farming activity during the pregnancy, obstetric and gynaecologic history, health care during pregnancy in an adapted centre (mother-child dispensary) and drugs prescribed during pregnancy. The age of the mother was taken from the

TABLE I Scores according to work undertaken

No work undertaken during pregnancy	0
Housework	1
Grinding millet regularly	2
Chopping and carrying wood	2

maternity hospital, 962 in Farakan maternity clinic, 1111 in Guimbi maternity clinic). Of these, 123 were stillbirths and 436 (10.8% of the livebirths) were of low birthweight (≤ 2500 g). In all 102 women gave birth to premature babies (gestational age 28–37 weeks). These cases were recorded sequentially and matched with 102 controls. The premature infants accounted for only

Figure 1 shows the ratio of the number of cases to number of controls in each age group. The maximum risk was in the 15–19 age group when compared with older women [$\chi^2 = 7.43$] (OR = 6.9, 95% CI : 3.1–15.5). The number of previous pregnancies was inversely associated with the risk of prematurity, but this factor was strongly correlated with the age of the



and social status of the couple. It is the chosen mode of transport for the wives of middle managers. Women of lower socioeconomic status are more

³ Arias F, Tomich P. Etiology and outcome of low birth weight and preterm infants. *Obstet Gynecol* 1982; 60: 277-81.

⁴ Picaud A, Niome Nze R, Ogowet Igumu N, Faye A, Mba Allo L. *Dental and maternal risks in multiple pregnancies.* n