

# Gestational Age Distribution of Stillbirths in Kandy District, Sri Lanka – A Cross Sectional Study

A. M. S. S. Alahakoon<sup>1</sup>, R. M. C. J. Rathnayaka<sup>2</sup>, S. U. B. Tennakoon<sup>3</sup>, K. E. Karunakaran<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dept.of Supplementary Health Sciences, Faculty of Health-Care Sciences, Eastern University, Sri Lanka

<sup>2</sup>Dept.of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

<sup>3</sup>Dept.of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

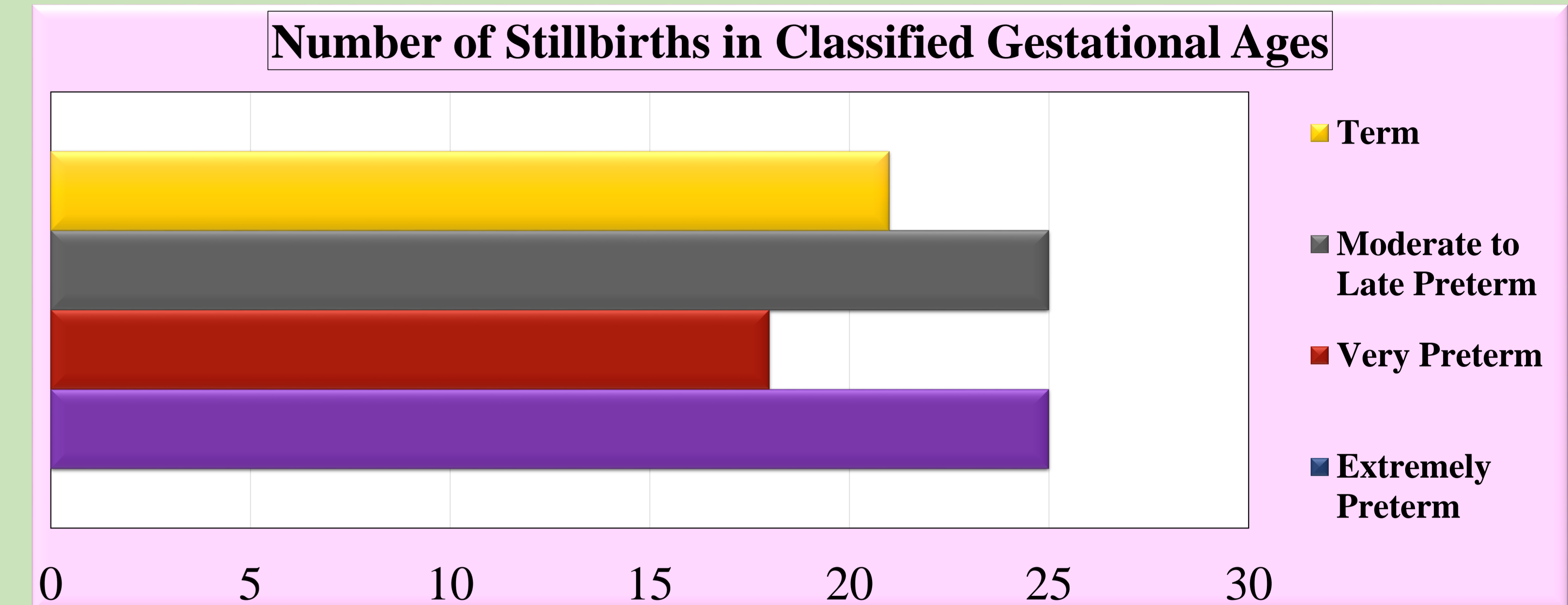
<sup>4</sup>Dept.of Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Health-Care Sciences, Eastern University, Sri Lanka

**Objective:** To determine the distribution of gestational age among Stillbirths in Kandy District, Sri Lanka.

**Methods:** Data on stillbirths after 22 weeks of gestation were collected from April to September 2017. The data were gathered from hospitals of Kandy District, Sri Lanka. The POG was calculated at the time of stillbirth, confirmed by ultrasound scanning. Data of 89 cases from this cross sectional study were included in this analysis.

**Results:** Maximum period of gestation was 40 weeks. The 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of stillbirths occurred at 27 weeks and 4 days of gestation while 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> reached 32 weeks and 1 day and 36 weeks and 6 days of pregnancy respectively. Highest frequency of stillbirths were recorded at 36<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> weeks of gestation (8 each week) and lowest was reported at 35<sup>th</sup> week (1 stillbirth). 73% (65) of pregnancies passed 28<sup>th</sup> week of gestation. Of them 44 (64.7%) were in the preterm group. Moreover, study showed 13 externally observable foetal anomalies in preterm stillbirths while 5 cases were found among term stillborns. 7 cases of pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH) cases were reported where 6 of them occurred in preterm. Only one mother had gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) who delivered before term.

**Conclusion:** Preterm foetuses are more prone to stillbirths since about 3/4 of deaths have occurred before completing 37 weeks of gestation. However, out of the total about 1/4th stillbirths occurred in term foetuses indicates a more vigilant ante natal care. Furthermore, since the majority of anomalies occurred among preterm stillbirths, conducting comprehensive future research are emphasized. Occurrence of preventable diseases like PIH and GDM were high in preterm stillbirths.



Anomaly	Number of Stillbirths
<i>Hydrops fetalis</i>	4
<i>Hydrocephalus</i>	1
<i>Congenital talipes equinovarus</i>	4
<i>Anencephaly</i>	3
<i>Omphalocele</i>	2
<i>Achondroplasia</i>	1
<i>Ectopia cordis</i>	1
<i>Meningocele</i>	1
<i>Meningomyelocele</i>	2
<i>Cleft lips</i>	2
<i>Cleft palate</i>	1
<i>Down's Syndrome</i>	1
<i>Macrocephaly</i>	1
<i>Scaphoid abdomen</i>	1

The table illustrates the various types of anomalies observed and the number of stillbirths affected.