

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE: our purpose was to evaluate retrospectively factors associated to preterm birth.

STUDY DESIGN: data were obtained retrospectively on 855 pregnant women, referred to Dipartimento Universitario di Ginecologia e Ostetricia dell'Azienda Ospedaliera O.I.R.M.-

S. Anna, with a diagnosis of preterm birth

RESULTS: univariate analysis performed on 855 preterm births shows that preterm birth is significantly associated with: twin pregnancy, presence, before 33 weeks of gestation, of cervical-vaginal infections and urinary infections, and need of tocolytic agents and antibiotic treatment.

Moreover, tocolytic treatment has showed reduction of women giving birth within 14 days, compared to no tocolytic treatment.

Obstetric characteristics, as the short cervical length (<25mm) measured by transvaginal ultrasonography, funnelling, and cervical dilatation at the admission to the hospital, did not show a significant association to preterm birth. This is probably due to small sample about these parameters.

CONCLUSIONS: the results of this study confirm the data reported in literature and underline the rule of the evaluation of factors involved in the risk of developing preterm birth. Early identification and treatment of pregnant women at risk of preterm birth could lead to improvement of neonatal outcomes.