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**Original article**

**Outcome of extremely low birth weight neonates in southern Nigeria.**

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**Abstract:**

**Background**:Over 90% of neonatal deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria. Prematurity is related to more than one third of these deaths on a global scale; with the extremely low birth weight (ELBW) category having over a 100-fold mortality risk compared to the normal birth weight (NBW) infants.

There has been significant improvement in outcome of premature infants including ELBW in developed countries over the past three decades. The purpose of this study was to determine the outcome of ELBW infants and to identify the factors associated with survival in a rural hospital in Nigeria.

**Method**: All the neonates admitted into the unit weighing less than 1000 grams at admission were enrolled. The birth place, gender, gestational age (GA), birth weight, postnatal age, temperature, blood sugar at admission and outcome were documented. None of the babies received surfactant or assisted ventilation.

**Results**: Twenty-nine out of 992 neonates (3%) admitted into the neonatal unit over the period were ELBW. The survival rates of the inborn and outborn neonates were 33% and 14% respectively.

**Conclusions**: Factors associated with increased survival were inborn, GA ≥ 28 weeks, birth weight of 750gm, inborn and admission within two hours of life.

**Keywords:** Survival, Extreme, Preterm.