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Evaluation of prenatally diagnosed congenital anomalies and termination of pregnancies

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Objective: The aim of this study was to document some epidemiological features of termination of pregnancy for birth defects in Mersin.

Method: We studied 571 pregnant women who were diagnosed/recommended for the termination of pregnancy as having a fetus with some types of birth defect(s).

Results: All patients had at least one ultrasound examination. Of 571 women, 458 terminated the pregnancy giving a prevalence rate of 80.2 percent. The remaining 113 subjects were unable to get the permission for abortion because of untimely diagnosis/application for termination (24th week of pregnancy and/or later). Of 458 cases with detected congenital anomalies, 32 were chromosomal, 28 were skeletal, 16 were thoracic, 16 were genitourinary, 22 were gastrointestinal, 19 were cardiovascular, 121 were in central nervous system, and 212 were multiple anomalies. Neural tube defects, limb deformation, hydrocephaly, multiple anomalies, and chromosomal anomalies including Down syndrome accounted proportionally for about 67 percent of defects eligible for abortion in the region.

Conclusion: Although the rate of termination of pregnancy for birth defects is acceptable at the current situation in the country, more efforts should still be made to convince the community authorities to give more possibility and ease for the termination of pregnancy for congenital anomalies.

Keywords: prenatally diagnosed, congenital anomalies