

FORENSIC MEDICAL ASSESSMENT OF DEFECTS IN MEDICAL CARE IN OBSTETRICS

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Background. Obstetrics and pediatrics are among the most critical medical specialties, as they directly influence maternal and child health outcomes. Defects in medical care at diagnostic, therapeutic, or organizational stages may lead to severe iatrogenic complications and mortality. Despite improvements in clinical guidelines, preventable medical errors remain a significant issue in healthcare systems worldwide.

Objective. To analyze the frequency, structure, and forensic medical characteristics of medical care defects in obstetrics and pediatrics and to improve their expert assessment.

Materials and Methods. A retrospective forensic medical study was conducted based on 250 commission examination reports from forensic medical institutions of Uzbekistan (2020–2024). A total of 72 cases with confirmed iatrogenic pathology were selected, including 40 obstetric and 32 pediatric cases. The study involved analysis of clinical records, autopsy findings, and histological data. Comparative clinical-morphological assessment and statistical analysis using the chi-square test were performed.

Results. The most frequent defects in medical care included diagnostic errors (36.0% in obstetrics and 34.4% in pediatrics), delayed emergency care (22.5% and 25.0%, respectively), irrational pharmacotherapy (19.0% and 21.9%), and violations of clinical protocols (22.5% and 18.7%). In pediatric practice, iatrogenic pathology accounted for 6.8% of mortality cases, mainly associated with delayed diagnosis and inadequate emergency interventions. In obstetrics, defects were more common among patients aged 31–40 years.

Morphological examination revealed consistent thanatogenetic mechanisms across both groups, including hypoxic-ischemic injury, cerebral and pulmonary edema, multiple organ failure, and infectious complications. In some cases, anaphylactic reactions were also identified.

Conclusion. Defects in medical care in obstetrics and pediatrics represent a significant source of iatrogenic pathology. Diagnostic errors and delayed emergency care are the leading contributors to adverse outcomes. Integration of clinical data with morphological and histological findings enhances the objectivity of forensic medical conclusions and supports the development of preventive strategies.

Keywords: forensic medical examination, obstetrics, pediatrics, iatrogenesis, medical errors, malpractice.

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