

ABSTRACT

Introduction

Induced abortion is a major public health concern especially in low- and middle-income countries. In Uganda, the number of women with induced abortion seems to be increasing. However, there is limited information concerning the reasons for increase in induced abortion. Thus, this study determined the prevalence, complications and factors associated with induced abortion among women admitted with abortion at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH).

Methods

A Hospital based cross sectional study was carried out using a pre-tested semi-structured, interviewer-administered questionnaire from March to June 2023 among women admitted with abortion at MRRH. Consecutive sampling technique was used to enroll participants into the study. The prevalence of women with induced abortion was expressed as percentage. We used Modified Poisson regression analysis to determine the factors associated with induced abortion

Results

A total of 220 women admitted with abortion were enrolled into the study. The prevalence of induced abortion was 49.5% (95% CI: 42.9-56.2). The factors associated with induced abortion were divorced/separated women (aPR: 2.05; 95% C.I [1.30,3.24]), unplanned conception (aPR: 4.61; 95% C.I [2.45,8.67]), no partner support, (aPR: 1.71; 95% C.I (1.09,2.70)). The leading complication was incomplete abortion (80.7%), followed by hemorrhage (72.5%), sepsis (37.67%) and uterine perforation (1.8%). Uterine perforations only occurred among those with induced abortion.

Conclusion

The study found a high prevalence of induced abortion. Divorced/separated women, unplanned pregnancies and lack partner support were factors associated with induced abortion. Family planning programs reduce unplanned pregnancy. There were more adverse outcomes among women with induced abortions as compared to those with spontaneous abortions. Strengthened health education regarding planned conception and contraceptive use as well as emphasis on partner involvement is highly recommended

