

A PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF  
CLEFT LIP AND PALATE IN THE DISTRICT OF KANDY

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About 1/1000 may be born with cleft lip and palate<sup>3</sup>. In a study carried out in Sri Lanka<sup>1</sup> an incidence of 0.98/1000 births has been reported. However the epidemiological data available in Sri Lanka is inadequate.

In this study all births including still births in the District of Kandy during the period from 1st April 1985 till 30th June 1986 were surveyed. A technical assistant trained to detect cleft lip and palate visited all hospitals and with the assistance of the nursing staff and a perusal of the hospital records, children born with clefts were traced and also the total number of births were determined. Children with clefts were examined by one of the authors and the parents were also interviewed. The type of cleft<sup>4</sup> parental age at conception, inheritance, illnesses and drugs taken during gestation and the family income were determined.

There were a total of 26,782 births and 1168 still births. Cleft lip and palate were detected in 26 live births and one still birth. Thus the overall incidence was 0.97 per 1000 births. 25 of these children had cleft lip with or without cleft palate while 4 (14.8%) had isolated cleft palate all of whom were females. 16 (64.4%) of the infants were males. Unilateral cleft lip with cleft palate was the commonest type (48.1%), and the left side was affected in 40.5%. In 80.2% the parental age was within the 20-30 year group. Heredity could be established only in 3 (11.1%) cases which is low compared to figures recorded in previous studies<sup>2</sup>.

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#### References

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