

Use of Holistic Process in averting Preeclampsia in Haiti



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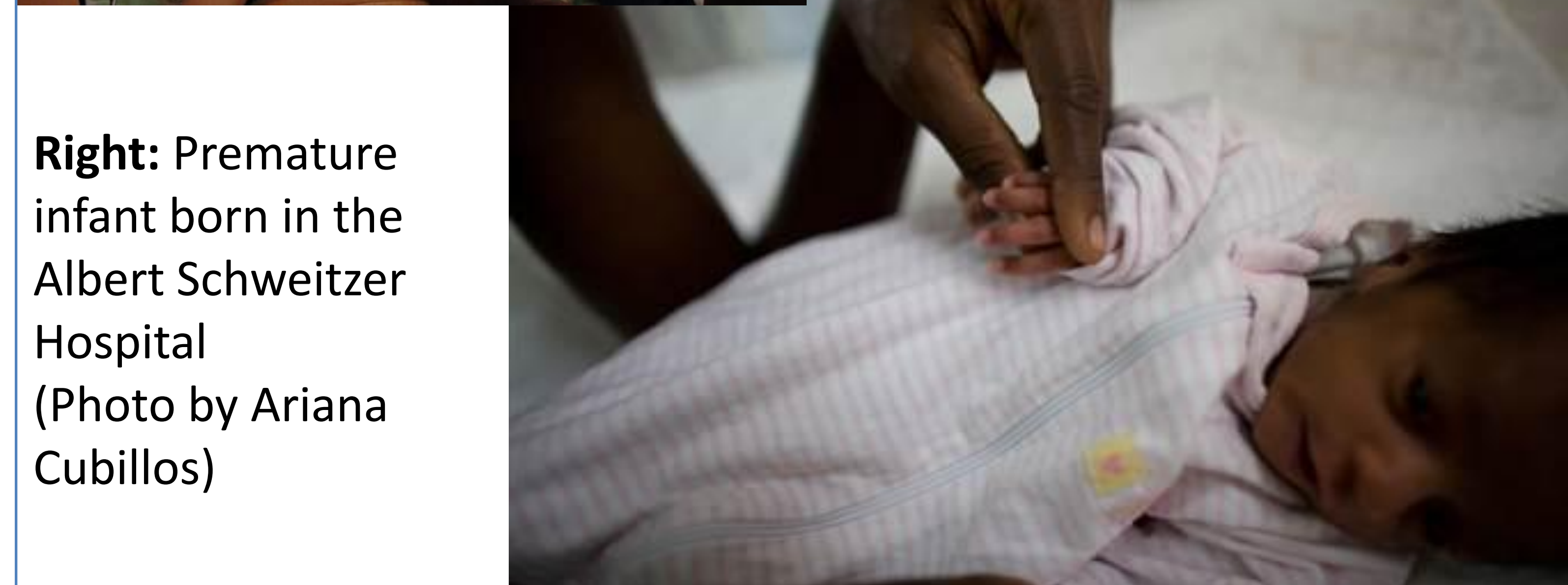
Introduction: Haiti is one of leading countries with problems throughout pregnancy. Main issue is preeclampsia (toxemia), potentially dangerous pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure (Dennis 1982). Vast majority of childbirths in Haiti happen at home. This can be deadly when dealing with woman of high-risk pregnancies. Haiti currently has community-based programs providing prenatal screening and counseling, making high-risk pregnancy care available. Maternal and child health care are on the rise. There is only one organization in Haiti provides life-saving care to the mothers and babies.

Hypothesis Tested: Perceptions of healthcare workers vary slightly compared to published information on preeclampsia in Haiti.

Methods: I chose Albert Schweitzer Hospital as a community of focus because I had a relative working there interested in engaging in a holistic discussion with me, and I myself will be working there later this year. The research idea emerged from the discussion regarding the main issues interrupting the community's Desired Quality of Life. Together we developed these questions. An Expedited Review was approved April 2015 by Albert Schweitzer Hospital and MSU.



Left: Pregnant woman being examined by healthcare workers at Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Des Jardins, Haiti. (Photo by Ariana Cubillos)

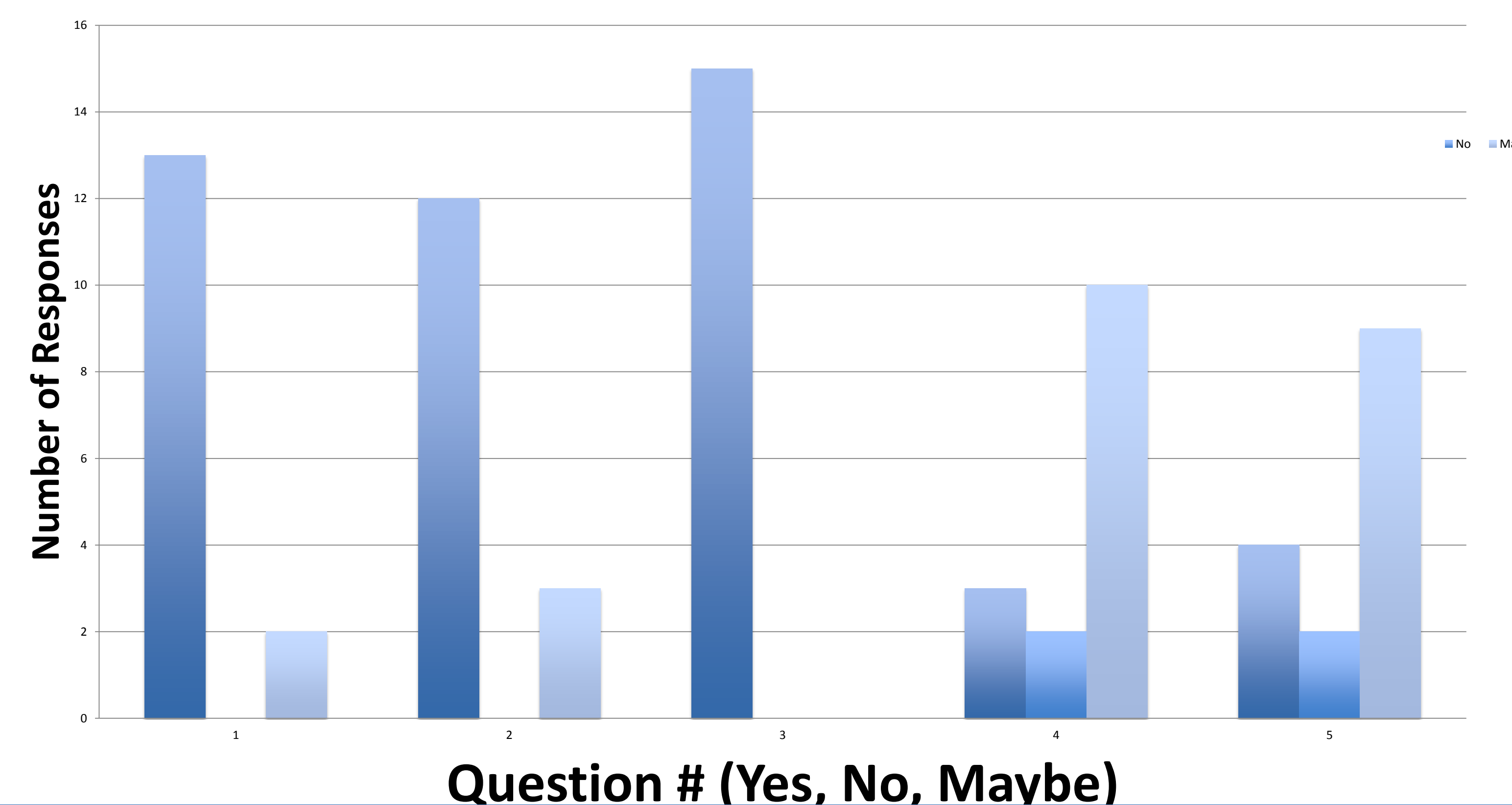


Right: Premature infant born in the Albert Schweitzer Hospital (Photo by Ariana Cubillos)

Discussion: Survey results indicated health care workers in Haiti have a good idea of what the issues are. Literature although correct has issues when it comes to recent topics as such. There is a lot of information pertaining to Preeclampsia, but not a lot of it is that updated. No new research has been done and published. There is most likely current research going on, but has yet to be published.

Conclusion: Hypothesis accepted.

Table 1. Survey Results, 15 respondents



Survey Questions:

1. Do you believe that Haiti has a problem with preeclampsia?
2. Do you think the issue can be helped by outside medical technology?
3. Do you agree with this definition of preeclampsia? "A potentially dangerous pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure."
4. Do you believe that a pamphlet or other form of informational tool would help the women of Haiti?
5. Do you think the problem with preeclampsia is lowering in Haiti?

References:

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