

A study of mid-arm and chest circumferences as predictors of low birthweight

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Abstract:

Nine hundred ninety-nine newborns were examined in order to determine the relationship between birth weight and mid-arm and chest circumferences. An early neonatal mortality rate of 51/1000 was recorded, being much higher for preterm (301/1000) than term babies (2.5/1000). Both mid-arm and chest circumference showed highly significant correlations with birth weight ($r = 0.872$, P less than 0.0001 and $r = 0.918$, P less than 0.0001, respectively). The correlation between weight and chest circumferences was upheld even for very small babies