

Dr. A. Macfarlane

JUL 19 1985

Day of birth (9-22-84)

I was interested to see your note in Lancet, and would appreciate copies of your publications.

Some 20 years, I had a similar interest in these environmental effects on pediatric events - see enclosed - but did not succeed in getting much useful information on mortality.

Without being able to get conclusive evidence, I am inclined to think that there is a psychosomatic component (maternal anticipation) in the rhythm of births; there may be problems of hospital staffing... influencing mortality. If selective induction of labor were playing a major role, I would expect a peak pileup on Fridays, rather than a spread through the week days as is generally observed.

There is also a diurnal cycle - and here induction may be expected to play some role.

A few observations have come my way on day-of-week effects on patient care + outcome. If you can enlarge my bibliography, I would be grateful.

Yours sincerely,

John A. Robbins letter to
New Engl. Jour. Medicine
28 July 1977

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enc. (Bus Week)