

HEALTH ECONOMICS/BOOK REVIEWS

- 6 Briggs A, Gray A. *Handling Uncertainty When Performing Economic Evaluation of Healthcare Interventions*. London, UK: Health Technology Assessment, 1999.
- 7 Pritchard C, Sculpher MJ. *Productivity Costs: Principles and Practice in Economic Evaluation*. London, UK: Office of Health Economics, 2000.
- 8 Petrou S, Henderson J, Glazener C. Economic aspects of Caesarean section and alternative modes of delivery. *Best Pract Res Clin Obstet Gynaecol* 2001; **15**: 145–163.
- 9 Farquar C, Brown PM, Furness S. Cost effectiveness of pre-operative gonadotrophin releasing analogues for women with uterine fibroids undergoing hysterectomy or myomectomy. *Br J Obstet Gynaecol* 2002; **109**: 1273–1280.
- 10 Williams A. *The Role of the EuroQol Instrument in QALY Calculations*. York, UK: Centre for Health Economics, 1995.
- 11 Williams A. Economics of coronary artery bypass grafting. *BMJ* 1985; **291**: 326–329.
- 12 McNeil B, Weichselbaum R, Stephen G, Pauker G. Speech and survival. *N Engl J Med* 1981; **293**: 255–258.
- 13 Torrance GW, Sackett DL. A utility maximising model for evaluation of health care programmes. *Health Serv Res* 1972; **7**: 118–133.
- 14 Kind P, Dolan P, Gudex C, Williams A. Practical and methodological issues in the development of the EuroQol: the York experience. *Adv Med Sociol* 1994; **5**: 219–253.
- 15 EuroQol. EuroQol – a new facility for the measurement of health-related quality of life. *Health Policy* 1990; **16**: 199–208.
- 16 Dolan P, Gudex C, Kind P, Williams A. *A Social Tariff for EuroQol: Results from a UK General Population Survey (Discussion Paper No.138)*. York, UK: University of York, 1995.
- 17 Ware J, Sherbourne C. The SF-36 short-form health status survey 1. Conceptual framework and item selection. *Med Care* 1992; **30**: 473–483.
- 18 Fryback DG, Lawrence WF, Martin PA, Klein R, Klein B. Predicting quality of well-being scores from the SF-36: results from the Beaver Dam Health Outcomes Study. *Med Decis Making* 1997; **17**: 1–9.
- 19 Veenstra M, Pettersen KI, Rollag A, Stavem K. Association of changes in health-related quality of life in coronary heart disease with coronary procedures and sociodemographic characteristics. *Health Qual Life Outcomes* 2004; **2**: 56.
- 20 Brazier J. The SF-36 health survey questionnaire – a tool for economists. *Health Econ* 1993; **2**: 213–216.
- 21 Brazier J, Roberts J, Deverill M. The estimation of a preference-based measure of health from the SF-36. *J Health Econ* 2002; **21**: 271–292.
- 22 Donaldson C, Atkinson A, Bond J. Should QALYs be programme specific? *J Health Econ* 1988; **7**: 239–257.
- 23 Patient-Reported Outcome and Quality of Life (PROQOLID) Instruments Database. Lyon, France: MAPI Research Institute. <http://www.proqolid.org> [Accessed 6 February 2006].
- 24 Sculpher MJ, Manca A, Abbott J, Fountain J, Garry R. Cost-effectiveness analysis of laparoscopic hysterectomy compared with standard hysterectomy: results from a randomised controlled trial. *BMJ* 2004; **328**: 134–140.
- 25 Ratcliffe J, Ryan M, Tucker J. The costs of alternative types of routine antenatal care for low risk women: shared care vs care by general practitioners and community midwives. *J Health Serv Res Policy* 1996; **11**: 135–140.
- 26 Ryan M. Should government fund assisted reproductive techniques? A study using willingness to pay. *Appl Econ* 1997; **29**: 849.
- 27 Whynes DK, Frew E, Wolstenholme JL. A comparison of two methods for eliciting contingent valuations of colorectal cancer screening. *J Health Econ* 2003; **22**: 555–574.
- 28 Zethraeus N. Willingness to pay for hormone replacement therapy. *Health Econ* 1999; **7**: 31–38.
- 29 Mitchell RC, Carson RT. *Using Surveys to Value Public Goods: The Contingent Valuation Method*. Washington, DC: Resources for the Future, 1989.
- 30 Hundley V, Ryan M, Graham W. Assessing women's preferences for intrapartum care. *Birth* 2001; **28**: 254–263.
- 31 Ryan M, Donaldson C. Assessing the costs of assisted reproductive techniques. *Br J Obstet Gynaecol* 1996; **103**: 198–201.
- 32 Ryan M, Hughes J. Using conjoint analysis to value surgical versus medical management of miscarriage. *Health Econ* 1997; **6**: 261–273.
- 33 Ryan M. Using conjoint analysis to go beyond health outcomes: an application in *in-vitro* fertilisation. *Soc Sci Med* 1999; **48**: 535–546.
- 34 San Miguel F, Ryan M, McIntosh E. Demonstrating the use of conjoint analysis in health economics: an application to menorrhagia. *Appl Econ* 2000; **32**: 823–833.
- 35 Ryan M, Gerard K. Using choice experiments to value health care programmes: where are we and where should we go? Paper presented at the 3rd International Health Economics Association Conference, University of York, York, UK, July 2001.
- 36 Kleinman L, McIntosh E, Ryan M, Schimmer J, Crawley J, Locke GR, et al. Willingness to pay for complete symptom relief of gastroesophageal reflux disease. *Arch Intern Med* 2002; **162**: 1361–1366.
- 37 Ryan M, McIntosh E, Shackley P. Using conjoint analysis to assess consumer preferences in primary care: an application to the patient health card. *J Health Expectations* 1999; **1**: 117–129.
- 38 Ryan M, McIntosh E, Dean T, Old P. Trade-offs between location and waiting time in the provision of elective surgery. *J Public Health Med* 2000; **22**: 202–210.
- 39 McIntosh E, Ryan M. Using discrete choice experiments to derive welfare estimates for the provision of elective surgery: implications of discontinuous preferences. *J Econ Psychol* 2002; **23**: 367–382.
- 40 Longworth L, Ratcliffe J, Boulton M. Investigating women's preferences for intrapartum care: home versus hospital births. *Health Soc Care Community* 2001; **9**: 404–413.
- 41 McIntosh E, Donaldson C, Ryan M. Recent advances in the methods of cost-benefit analysis in healthcare: matching the art to the science. *Pharmacoeconomics* 1999; **15**: 357–367.
- 42 Weinstein MC, Manning WG. Theoretical issues in cost-effectiveness analysis. *J Health Econ* 1997; **16**: 121–128.
- 43 Rawls J. Castigating QALYs. *J Med Ethics* 1989; **15**: 143–147.
- 44 Mooney G. QALYs: are they enough? A health economist's perspective. *J Med Ethics* 1989; **15**: 152.
- 45 Trussell J, Leveque JA, Koenig JD, London R, Borden S, Henneberry J, et al. The economic value of contraception: a comparison of 15 methods. *Am J Public Health* 1995; **85**: 494–503.
- 46 Sonnenberg F, Burkman R, Hagerty C, Speroff L, Speroff T. Costs and net health effects of contraceptive methods. *Contraception* 2004; **69**: 447–459.

Book Reviews

Step-by-Step Ultrasound in Gynecology. K Singh, N Malhotra. New York, NY: McGraw Hill, 2004. ISBN: 0-07-144655-9. Price: £17.99. Pages: 126 (paperback)

This cheap, pocket-sized book's very tempting premise is that it will give readers an overview of all of gynaecological diagnosis and management using ultrasonography. It is written by an ultrasonographer and an obstetrician/ gynaecologist practising in India, and is aimed at a mixed readership. Very short chapters cover the principles of ultrasound and normal female anatomy, before going on to illustration-rich chapters on the ultrasonographic appearance of the normal female pelvis and various uterine and ovarian disorders. Unfortunately the image quality is often poor, and the labelling of the images did not always clarify what was being demonstrated. The most successful images are those that are correlated with findings at hysteroscopy or laparoscopy. I had hoped the accompanying mini-CD-ROM would make the images clearer, but this was not the case. The last chapter has flowcharts for the ultrasonographer illustrating approaches to common gynaecological

problems, but these are often not relevant to current UK practice.

Overall, I felt that the style was frustratingly brief for my needs, although ultrasonographers with no gynaecological training may well find it useful.

Reviewed by **Pauline McGough**, MRCOG, MFFP
Subspecialist Registrar in Sexual and Reproductive Health, Glasgow, UK

Prenatal Tests: The Facts. L De Crispigny and F Chervenak. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN: 0-19-852084-0. Price: £9.99. Pages: 143 (paperback)

This slim volume is one of a series of medical titles aimed at the public and promising "all the facts you need – straight from the experts". In this case the experts are obstetricians practising in Australia and the USA; the target audience is pregnant women in Australia, the UK and USA.

In these countries, increasingly sophisticated tests are offered to pregnant women; yet the interpretation, risks and benefits of these tests are often misunderstood. Women are asked to make choices about which tests they wish to take – and may have to consider paying for some or all tests.

This book helpfully describes all prenatal tests by stage of pregnancy. Ultrasound is discussed in detail, and there are exquisite images of the normal fetus at various stages of development. Serum screening, amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling are also discussed at length. Crucially the risks, benefits and limitations are mentioned, stressing that no test can guarantee a healthy baby. There is also a clear glossary to explain technical terms.

The text certainly feels "straight from the experts"; it is clearly written but highly technical and includes details of very rare complications and conditions. I shared this book with one pregnant couple who felt it was readable and clear but rather too detailed for most women. Many women could become highly anxious after reading this book. Conversely, couples grappling with abnormal results or high-risk pregnancies will be much better informed having read this book. It is certainly superior to the random business of surfing the Internet for information. Medical professionals might also appreciate this book and feel better prepared to discuss abnormal results with couples.

Reviewed by **Kate Weaver**, MB ChB, MFFP
Staff Grade Doctor in Reproductive Health Care, Edinburgh, UK