BOOK REVIEW

Acute Gynaecology and Early Pregnancy: Advanced Skills Series

Jurkovic Davor, Farquharson Roy (eds). London, UK: RCOG Press, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-1-906-98532-5. Price: £114.00. Pages: 256 (hardcover)

This book is ideal for trainees completing the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) advanced training and skills module (ATSM) in Acute Gynaecology and Early Pregnancy. It comprehensively covers the syllabus of this module and provides key reading for those attending the ATSM theoretical course. As it provides good practical advice on clinical management and up-to-date summaries of the literature this book would also be a useful reference for consultant gynaecologists, specialty trainees and other health professionals involved in the care of women with acute gynaecological and early pregnancy problems.

Like the ATSM, this book is particularly focused on problems in early pregnancy. The diagnosis and management of these problems (including hyperemesis gravidarum, miscarriage, tubal and non-tubal ectopic pregnancy and molar pregnancy) is discussed in detail and is supported by some useful images and clinical algorithms. Clinical algorithms for the management of pregnancy of unknown location and the management of tubal ectopic pregnancies are not included and these would be a useful addition. The chapters on 'Organization and delivery of emergency care' and 'Drugs in early pregnancy' are thorough and are a useful reference source. The final chapters cover non-pregnancy-related acute gynaecological issues including practical approaches to the management of acute pelvic pain and vaginal bleeding and discussions addressing resuscitation and surgical issues.

There are, however, some areas of acute gynaecological practice that are not covered in this book, as they are beyond the scope of the ATSM. These

include acute vulval conditions, ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome and some paediatric and adolescent gynaecological issues. This (and the size of the book) limits its usefulness as a handbook for a gynaecology on-call shift.

This book is well written throughout; it is readable, up-to-date and is well referenced. It is also well presented and includes many useful ultrasound and clinical images, tables and flowcharts. It provides a comprehensive review of UK practice in this area and would be a useful resource for trainees preparing for the MRCOG Part 2 examinations as well as for clinical practice.

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