

Controversies in Obstetrical Management and Maternal Care. Michael Klein, *the Medical Subcommittee on Humanizing Obstetrical Care. Direction des communications, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Quebec, 1987, 86 pp., price not available.*

This contribution by Dr. Klein and colleagues represents their attempt to develop a resource manual for those who will teach family-centered maternity care. Family-centered maternity care (FCMC) is obstetrical care in which the mother is allowed maximal flexibility and control over the labor and delivery process consistent with safety. In addition, involvement of the spouse, early bonding with the infant, and breast feeding is encouraged. As much of FCMC remains controversial to more traditional obstetricians and family physicians, Dr. Klein's approach is to critique the literature scientifically, supporting traditional obstetrical and FCMC practices, and then allow readers to judge the controversy for themselves.

This very readable review is organized into the traditional three phases of obstetrical care: (1) prenatal care, (2) labor and delivery care, and (3) postpartum care. The section on labor and delivery care is the most complete and detailed. Unfortunately, the other two sections are not so detailed or thorough. Although a good discussion of ultrasound use during pregnancy is presented, the rest of the prenatal care section is very brief and does not mention issues of continuity of care, smoking cessation, drug addiction, or recent research examining the effect of the patient's family on pregnancy outcome. Likewise, the section on postpartum care, although having an excellent discussion of maternal-infant bonding, is also too brief and does not discuss many postpartum care issues pertinent to FCMC.

Other limitations deserve mention. No illustrations or tables appear in the manual. In addition, although the manual's specific purpose is as a resource manual for teachers, no recommendations on curricular design or teaching are made. Furthermore, although the authors review many

studies with small numbers of patients, the issue of statistical power is never mentioned.

In conclusion, this book will leave most readers hungry for more. However, its clear relevance to the practice of family medicine obstetrics, its easy readability, and its excellent section

on labor and delivery makes this manual useful not only to the family physician educator but to practitioners, residents, and students as well.

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*FDA Tentative Final Monograph On Wart Remover Drug Products For Over-The-Counter Human Use, The Federal Register, (Vol. 47, No. 172), pgs. 39102-39105, Sept. 3, 1982.



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