

Women's Health

College Statements

College statements continue to be the centre of activity of the Women's Health Committee. In the last year, these have assumed even greater importance as a means of clearly stating the College's position on key national issues such as home birth (the statement is considerably expanded with the addition of many references) and indications for referral within and between models of care.

The College statements also provide a valuable resource for the Fellowship, making available collective opinions on a range of subjects that are dealt with on a daily basis in their practice. While the College cannot boast the resources of our British or American counterparts, the committee has developed some excellent guidelines such as those for 'Prevention Detection and Management of Subgaleal Haemorrhage in the Newborn' and 'Intrapartum Fetal Surveillance' (currently under review).

New statements in the past year include:

- C-Obs 24: Warm Water Immersion during Labour and Birth
- C-Obs 25: Vitamin and Mineral Supplementation in Pregnancy
- C-Obs 26: Use of Cervical Fetal Fibronectin as a Screening Test for Preterm Birth
- C-Obs 27: Measurement of Cervical Length in Pregnancy for Prediction of Preterm Birth
- C-Obs 30: Suitability Criteria for Models of Care and Indications for Referral Within and Between Models of Care
- C-Gen 13: Alcohol in Pregnancy

Patient Information Pamphlets

The College has continued to review past pamphlets and produce new ones. The pamphlets have been a very successful initiative of the College which are widely used by doctors and hospital clinics to aid consultation and are appreciated and valued by women in the community. New pamphlets include:

- *Management of Labour – A Guide for Women*
- *A Decision Aid – Testing in Pregnancy for Fetal Abnormalities*
- *Painful Menstrual Periods – A Guide for Women*

Indigenous Women's Health

The highly successful RANZCOG 2008 Australian Indigenous Women's Health Meeting, held in Darwin from 14 to 16 August, was attended by 351 delegates from diverse backgrounds. The meeting was held over three days, covering a broad range of topics including, cultural competence; obstetrics and gynaecology; nutrition; fertility; adolescent health; and mental health. The meeting ended on a high note with many plaudits from the attendees. It is envisaged that RANZCOG will continue to commit to meetings in the future and to support Indigenous women's health initiatives.

Other Initiatives in Women's Health

The Women's Health Committee (WHC) continues the important work of representing the Fellowship on government committees and other organisations on initiatives concerning women's health. These activities have been:

- Cancer Australia - national reference group for gynaecological cancers
- Avant - fetal ultrasound risk modification program workshops
- Department of Health and Ageing - diagnostic imaging accreditation
- Representation on the Expert Working Group for the revision of NHMRC/ASBT Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Use of Blood Components (2001)

- Representation on the Expert Advisory Committee for National Evidence-Based Antenatal Care Guidelines
- Review and submission to New Zealand's Department of Health regarding the review of their National Cervical Screening Guidelines
- Participation in FIGO Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Survey, which aimed to obtain information from FIGO member associations on ASRH and clinical practice of each country
- Representation and submission regarding Australia's National Maternity Services Review, conducted by the Federal Government's Department of Health and Ageing
- Representation on the National Health and Medical Research Council's guideline adaptation committee for the prevention of venous thromboembolism
- Participation in a forum regarding the review of National Infection Control Guidelines for the prevention of transmission of infectious diseases, conducted by Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council
- Successful submission to the Department of Health and Ageing to conduct an accreditation, re-accreditation and audit program for colposcopy in Australia and New Zealand.

Nuchal Translucency – Ultrasound Education and Monitoring Program

Audit of the nuchal translucency scan in Australia is a continuing process. In September 2008, 219 sites and centres and 817 sonographers received reports of their performance of the scan for the 12-month period. During that period, there were 143,020 scans performed by centres and sonographers who are participating in the audit program. It was pleasing to see that the performance of the scan has improved significantly. Education for all operators is being upgraded in line with the continually evolving software that is available for centres to generate risks for patients.

The Online Learning Program was launched in June 2009. This program replaces the theoretical course that has been running biannually since 2001 in Australia. In the future, it is anticipated that the face-to-face courses will focus on updates of the first trimester scan for advanced learners.

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