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978-0-521-73576-6 - Proactive Support of Labor: The Challenge of Normal Childbirth

Paul Reuwer, Hein Bruinse and Arie Franx

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

This book is dedicated to Kieran O'Driscoll, great obstetrician and distinguished teacher, forerunner in the development and evaluation of conceptual birth care. His fundamental insight and inspiring work provided the starting point of this treatise.

Contents

Foreword	<i>page</i> ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Web-Forum	xiii
1. General introduction	1
Section 1: A wake-up call	7
2. Medical excess in normal childbirth	9
3. Iatrogenic causes of failed labors	19
4. Harmful birth care practices	27
5. Destructive territorial disputes	35
6. Self-sustaining mechanisms	42
Section 2: Back to basics	53
7. Lessons from nature	55
8. Elementary biophysics of birth	59
9. First-stage labor revisited	70
10. Second-stage labor redefined	79
11. Definitions and verbal precision	84
Section 3: Proactive support of labor	93
12. Introductory synopsis	95
13. Nulliparous versus parous labor	104
14. Diagnosis of labor	110
15. Prevention of long labor	121

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii **Contents**

16. Personal continuity and continuous support	131
17. Amniotomy and oxytocin	138
18. Labor pain in broader perspective	150
19. Prelabor preparation	157
20. Medical pain relief revisited	163
21. Dynamic dystocia unraveled	175
22. Mechanical birth obstruction	190
23. Curtailed use of induction	202
24. Intrapartum care of the fetus	210
25. Prevention of litigation	225
26. Organizational reforms	230
27. Continual audit and feedback	241
28. Quality assessment	245
29. Hospital statistics	248
30. Sum of the parts	253
Index	259

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Foreword

Improvements in the care of the pregnant woman and fetal patient during the birthing process have been a success story for modern obstetrics. Less than a century ago maternal mortality during labor was commonplace in most developed countries, and fetal mortality and morbidity were even more common. The keystone of modern obstetrics was the introduction of hospital and safe cesarean deliveries in the early 20th century. However, too much of a good thing can sometimes lead to other problems.

In their book *Proactive Support of Labor*, Drs Reuwer, Bruinse and Franx make an important contribution to modern obstetrics by providing a critical counterbalance to technologic interference in labor and delivery. The authors introduce the concept of “Proactive Support of Labor” as an acceptable alternative to traditional labor and delivery management in order to shorten labor and ultimately ensure a safer delivery. They propose that results of improved labor and delivery management should be evaluated not only in physical terms (e.g., reduced morbidity and mortality) but also in terms of emotion and patient satisfaction. This concept is designed to not only improve the overall outcome but also patient satisfaction.

We agree that the perspective provided in this book should be carefully considered by all providers of healthcare to women in labor. The call for humanistic and evidence based obstetric care in labor and delivery by including the emotional needs of women in labor should be embraced throughout the world.

Amos Grunebaum

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Frank A Chervenak

Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology,
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Women's satisfaction with the childbirth experience, when caregivers have followed the strategy of *proactive support of labor*, as well as the unremitting enthusiasm of birth professionals who made this approach their own, were the motivating forces in writing this manual. The authors wish to express their special gratitude and thanks to Vanessa Stubbs, Simone Valk, Lo Pistorius, and Gerrit Jan Noordergraaf for their help, advice, support, and criticism.

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Web-Forum

Readers are encouraged to share their opinions about *proactive support of labor* in the interactive web-forum: www.proactivesupportoflabor.com