Since 1973 the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has regularly convened Study Groups to address important growth areas within obstetrics and gynaecology. An international group of eminent clinicians and scientists from various disciplines is invited to present the results of recent research and to take part in in-depth discussions. The resulting volume, containing enhanced versions of the papers presented, is published within a few months of the meeting and provides a summary of the subject that is both authoritative and up to date.

Some previous Study Group publications available:

- Infertility
  Edited by AA Templeton and JO Drife
- Intrapartum Fetal Surveillance
  Edited by JAD Spencer and RHT Ward
- Early Fetal Growth and Development
  Edited by RHT Ward, SK Smith and D Donnai
- Ethics in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
  Edited by S Bowley and RHT Ward
- The Biology of Gynaecological Cancer
  Edited by R Leake, M Gorr and RHT Ward
- Multiple Pregnancy
  Edited by RHT Ward and M Whittle
- The Prevention of Pelvic Infection
  Edited by AA Templeton
- Screening for Down Syndrome in the First Trimester
  Edited by JG Grudzinskas and RHT Ward
- Problems in Early Pregnancy: Advances in Diagnosis and Management
  Edited by JG Grudzinskas and PMS O'Brien
- Gene Identification, Manipulation and Treatment
  Edited by SK Smith, EJ Thomas and PMS O'Brien
- Evidence-based Fertility Treatment
  Edited by AA Templeton, ID Cooke and PMS O'Brien
- Fetal Programming: Influences on Development and Disease in Later Life
  Edited by PMS O'Brien, T Wheeler and DJP Barker
- Hormones and Cancer
  Edited by PMS O'Brien and AB MacLean
- The Placenta: Basic Science and Clinical Practice
  Edited by JCP Kingdom, ERM Jauniaux and PMS O'Brien
- Disorders of the Menstrual Cycle
  Edited by PMS O'Brien, IT Cameron and AB MacLean
- Infection and Pregnancy
  Edited by AB MacLean, L Regan and D Carrington
- Pain in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
  Edited by A MacLean, R Stones and S Thornton
- Incontinence in Women
  Edited by AB MacLean and L Cardoso
- Maternal Morbidity and Mortality
  Edited by AB MacLean and J Neeloh
- Lower Genital Tract Neoplasia
  Edited by Allan B MacLean, Albert Singer and Hilary Critchley
- Pre-eclampsia
  Edited by Hilary Critchley, Allan MacLean, Lucilla Poston and James Walker
- Preterm Birth
  Edited by Hilary Critchley, Phillip Bennett and Steven Thornton
- Menopause and Hormone Replacement
  Edited by Hilary Critchley, Ailsa Gabrie and Valerie Beral
- Implantation and Early Development
  Edited by Hilary Critchley, Iain Cameron and Stephen Smith
- Contraception and Contraceptive Use
  Edited by Anna Glaser, Kaye Wellings and Hilary Critchley
- Multiple Pregnancy
  Edited by Mark Kilby, Phil Baker, Hilary Critchley and David Field
- Heart Disease and Pregnancy
  Edited by Philip J Steer, Michael A Gatzoulis and Philip Baker
- Teenage Pregnancy and Reproductive Health
  Edited by Philip Baker, Kate Guthrie, Cindy Hutchinson, Roslyn Kane and Kaye Wellings
- Obesity and Reproductive Health
  Edited by Philip Baker, Adam Balen, Lucilla Poston and Naveed Sattar

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Renal Disease in Pregnancy

Edited by

John M Davison, Catherine Nelson-Piercy, Sean Kehoe and Philip Baker
Contents

Participants vii
Preface xi

SECTION 1 RENAL PHYSIOLOGY IN PREGNANCY

1 Recent advances in renal physiology in pregnancy
Chris Baylis 3

SECTION 2 PATTERNS OF CARE

2 Prepregnancy counselling and risk assessment: general overview
Liz Lightstone 21

3 Chronic kidney disease in pregnancy: patterns of care and general
principles of management
Mark A Brown 31

4 Midwifery issues
Kylie Watson 45

5 Postpartum follow-up of antenatally identified renal problems
Liz Lightstone 53

SECTION 3 CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

6 Pregnancy and dialysis
Liam Plant 61

7 Pregnancy and the renal transplant recipient
Sue Carr 69

8 Reflux nephropathy in pregnancy
Nigel J Brunskill 89

9 Lupus and connective tissue disease in pregnancy
Mike Venning and Mumtaz Patel 95

10 Diabetic nephropathy in pregnancy
Andrew McCarthy 111
SECTION 4 DRUGS USED IN RENAL DISEASE IN PREGNANCY

11 Drugs in women with renal disease and transplant recipients in pregnancy
   Graham W Lipkin, Mark Kilby and Asif Sarwar 129

12 Management of hypertension in renal disease in pregnancy
   Mark Kilby and Graham W Lipkin 149

13 Assisted reproduction in women with renal disease
   Jason Waugh 167

SECTION 5 ACUTE RENAL IMPAIRMENT

14 Acute renal failure in pregnancy: causes not due to pre-eclampsia
   David Williams 179

15 Pre-eclampsia-related renal impairment
   Louise Kenny 189

16 Renal biopsy in pregnancy
   Nigel J Brunskill 201

SECTION 6 UROLOGY AND PREGNANCY

17 Urological problems in pregnancy
   Jonathon Olsburgh 209

SECTION 7 SURGICAL AND MEDICAL ISSUES SPECIFIC TO RENAL TRANSPLANT PATIENTS

18 Surgical issues of renal and renal/pancreas transplantation in pregnancy
   John Taylor 223

19 Comorbid conditions that can affect pregnancy outcome in the renal transplant patient
   Sue Carr 229

SECTION 8 CONSENSUS VIEWS

20 Consensus views arising from the 54th Study Group:
   Renal Disease in Pregnancy 249

Index 253
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DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

All contributors to the Study Group were invited to make a specific Declaration of Interest in relation to the subject of the Study Group. This was undertaken and all contributors complied with this request. Philip Baker has declared that the Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre in Manchester receives core support from Tommy’s, the Baby Charity. Proportions of his salary are from Tommy’s, the Baby Charity and from the National Institute of Health Research. He edits the undergraduate and postgraduate textbooks Obstetrics by Ten Teachers and Obstetrics & Gynaecology: a Guide for MRCOG, and is on the editorial board of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine. Sean Kehoe has acted as an adviser for Sanofi Pasteur and received support to attend educational meetings. He is a member of the BGCS Council and the NCRI Ovarian Subgroup, and a spokesperson for WOW. Mark Kilby has acted as a consultant to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and has done paid editorial work for Maternal and Fetal Medicine Reviews. Liz Lightstone has received honoraria for chapters in Medicine 2003 and Medicine 2005. Catherine Nelson-Piercy is on the editorial boards of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine and the International Journal of Obstetric Anaesthesia and is editor-in-chief of the journal Obstetric Medicine. She edits the postgraduate textbooks Maternal Medicine and Obstetric Medicine: a Problem-based Approach and has written the Handbook of Obstetric Medicine. She is a trustee for the charity Action on Pre-eclampsia and patron of the Lauren Page Trust. Jason Waugh is a clinical expert for Action on Pre-eclampsia.
Women with renal problems, including kidney transplant patients and those receiving dialysis, often consult clinicians on the advisability of becoming pregnant or continuing a pregnancy already in progress. Pre-existing renal disease is encountered with increasing frequency in pregnant women. When counselling and caring for such women it is crucial that the clinician understands the striking physiological alterations that occur during normal pregnancy (most marked in the renal and cardiovascular systems) as well as the need for expert multidisciplinary antenatal care with awareness of the technology for fetal surveillance and the role of neonatal intensive care. Renal problems may also arise de novo in pregnancy and again expert care is essential to ensure satisfactory short- and long-term outcomes for these women and their newborns.

This book stems from the 54th RCOG Study Group on ‘Renal Disease in Pregnancy’, which allowed specialists in many disciplines to sift the most up-to-date evidence on all aspects of diagnosis and management in women with renal problems before, during and after pregnancy. The chapters describe many of the issues likely to be faced in clinical practice, providing valuable information for all healthcare professionals working in this field.

General principles for optimal management are clearly defined and separate chapters are devoted to specific disease entities and/or clinical situations. Members of the Study Group were mindful of the need for the obstetric medicine literature to adopt the new internationally recommended five stage classification for chronic kidney disease. Also, they have not tried to avoid the many controversial areas – management of hypertension, diagnosis of pre-eclampsia, assisted conception, the rationalisation of the many medications used in nephrological practice, renal biopsy, surgical emergencies, patient input and responsibilities – all are carefully considered. Whatever the problem, the key to a successful service is multidisciplinary teamwork within appropriate facilities, requiring as a minimum an obstetrician, a renal/obstetric physician and a specialist midwife, all with the necessary expertise.

During the deliberations of the Study Group it became apparent that many of our conclusions and counselling advice are based on poorly controlled, retrospective evidence (although there have been improvements on this in the last 20 years), underscoring the need for prospectively acquired data as well as registries.

In summary, this book critically reviews current knowledge of renal physiology, chronic kidney disease and other renal problems in pregnancy and highlights areas of controversy. Much progress has been made in the last two decades but there still remains a paucity of investigative data behind many of the conflicting arguments. Nevertheless, the Study Group has concluded the book with a list of consensus views.
for the management of renal disease in pregnancy, which are not intended to be ‘good practice guidelines’ or ‘evidence-based statements’. It is hoped that the book and the follow-up meeting will not only be a welcome and timely ‘review of the art’ but also a ‘call to action’ that will renew active interest in the field.

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