Antiplatelet Agents and the Prevention of Spontaneous Preterm Birth: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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1. Describe the current policy in your practice regarding the use of low-dose aspirin or other antiplatelet agents during pregnancy. Discuss how this policy is similar to or different from current recommendations by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

2. What was the authors’ rationale for evaluating the role of antiplatelet agents for preterm birth prevention? Discuss whether or not you agree with the rationale.

3. An individual participant data meta-analysis was performed. Define this type of meta-analysis and discuss how it differs from other type(s) of meta-analysis.

4. Summarize the search strategy used by the authors to identify studies included in their report. Discuss the advantages and limitations of the search strategy.

5. Describe the meanings of Kaplan-Meier analysis, binary logistic regression, and numbers needed to treat.

6. Identify the study’s primary outcomes and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this selection of primary outcomes. Given the opportunity, what would you select as the primary outcome(s)?

7. Summarize the key study findings. List the subgroups examined and for each one discuss whether or not it is a “proper” or “improper” subgroup.

8. In your opinion, what are the major strengths and limitations of this study?

9. Discuss whether or not you would routinely recommend antiplatelet agents as an effective intervention to reduce the risk of spontaneous preterm birth. If yes, for which groups or subgroups? If not, what would you recommend as next steps regarding the evaluation of antiplatelet agents for prevention of spontaneous preterm birth?