“A Comparison of Obstetric Maneuvers for the Acute Management of Shoulder Dystocia”
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1. Describe the mechanism(s) underlying shoulder dystocia. Using a model of a bony pelvis and a fetus, show the forces on the fetus when shoulder dystocia occurs and how different maneuvers may help to alleviate the problem.
2. Review the UpToDate article, “Intrapartum management and outcome of shoulder dystocia.” According to UpToDate, is any single maneuver more effective than another? Which maneuvers are recommended, in what order, and why?
3. Discuss with the group which maneuvers you find to be most effective, which you try first typically, and why.
4. The United States Joint Commission (formerly the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations [JCAHO]) recommends periodic clinical drills to prepare for shoulder dystocia, followed by debriefings to evaluate team performance and identify areas for improvement. Do you follow these recommendations? Why or how might they be helpful?
5. What was the objective of this study?
6. How were cases of shoulder dystocia identified? Is there any concern for bias with this method? If yes, how might bias be mitigated?
7. What is the rate of shoulder dystocia in this cohort of women? How does this compare to the rate in your practice or at your institution?
8. The authors found that delivery of the posterior shoulder was associated with the highest rate of delivery when compared to other maneuvers. Why do you think this maneuver performed so well? Review with the model how this maneuver relieves the dystocia.
9. The authors excluded cases where multiple maneuvers were used and the final maneuver culminating in delivery could not be determined. How might this affect the findings of the study?
10. Statistical analysis for this study included different tests for categorical variables, continuous variables, and trends. Describe and give examples of these different groups and why it is appropriate to use different tests for each type.
11. The authors report that the rate of neonatal injury increased with the number of maneuvers. Would you modify your approach to relieving shoulder dystocia based only on this information? Why or why not?
12. Will the findings from this manuscript alter your practice? What changes, if any, will you make?