Comparison of Midwifery and Obstetric Care in Low-Risk Hospital Births

Vivienne Souter, MD, Elizabeth Nethery, MSc, MSM, Mary Lou Kopas, MN, CNM, ARNP, Hannah Wurz, MSN, ARNP, CNM, Kristin Sitcov, BS, and Aaron B. Caughey, MD, PhD

Obstet Gynecol 2019;134:1056–65

1. Discuss the authors’ method for determining which patient would be classified under midwife care compared with obstetrician care. Do you agree with their definitions?

2. Since women in labor were not randomly assigned to health care provider type, how did the authors attempt to reduce selection bias in their study design? Discuss what residual biases might remain in their study.

3. Discuss whether this study question is amenable to a randomized study design. If so, how might that study design further reduce bias?

4. List the significant differences in outcomes between the two groups. Discuss which ones you believe are clinically meaningful and why.

5. Discuss the reason(s) you believe differences were seen between the groups. Specifically, which outcome differences do you believe are related to differences in labor management styles, experience, and skills, and which outcomes you believe are related to biases in the study?

6. Discuss the outcome of physiological birth. Review its definition, and whether this is an outcome you or your patients prefer. Discuss the low rate of this outcome seen in both groups in this study.

7. Review the Joint Statement of Practice Relations Between Obstetrician–Gynecologists and Certified Nurse-Midwives/Certified Midwives. How are midwives integrated into labor and delivery care at your institution? Discuss what aspects of this integration you find productive as well any potential areas for improvement.

8. Review the last portion of the Discussion section in the article. Discuss if and how midwifery care should be increased for low-risk hospital deliveries in the United States and what you believe might be the benefits and the challenges of increasing midwifery care in U.S. hospitals.