

Preface

Obstetrical emergencies can be among the most stressful events an emergency physician will face in their entire career. Late pregnancy bleeding or a precipitous emergency department (ED) delivery can provoke anxiety in even the most seasoned emergency physician. Trauma and cardiovascular emergencies in pregnant patients can result in catastrophic outcomes for both mother and baby. When it comes to pregnant patients, even seemingly minor presentations such as trip and fall can become an area of treachery.

The goal of this book is to provide an evidence-based, practical approach to the wide spectrum of obstetric complications an emergency physician must be prepared to manage throughout all trimesters of pregnancy as well as postpartum. The approach to the pregnant patient with trauma, with non-pregnancy-related abdominal pain, or in cardiac arrest is discussed. Updates in the classification and management of the hypertensive disorders of pregnancy are presented. Recent controversies surrounding the use of antiemetics for first-trimester nausea and vomiting and the use of a beta-hCG discriminatory zone for the evaluation of pregnancy of unknown location are also addressed.

This book is written for emergency clinicians in all practice settings. Obstetrical support services vary widely between different facilities, and emergency physicians must be prepared to initially manage any pregnant patient that comes through the door. It is my hope that this book provides useful information for daily practice as well as preparation for rarely encountered and potentially life-threatening events.

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complete this project. Without your support, this book would not have been possible.

Emergency physicians are in a unique position to have a potentially tremendous impact on the life of a pregnant patient and her unborn child. I hope that this book equips you with the tools to provide the best possible care for your obstetric patients in the ED each and every day.

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