

Maternity, Obstetrics & Gynaecology Evidence Update May 2023

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NICE

National Institute for
Health and Care Excellence

Most recent guidance published or updated:

[Pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy with or without bevacizumab for persistent, recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer TA885](#)

Other Guidance/Reports

[Postpartum haemorrhage in high-resource settings: Variations in clinical management and future research directions based on a comparative study of national guidelines](#)

[BJOG](#)



Systematic Reviews and Research Protocols

[Cephalic version by moxibustion for breech presentation](#)

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Reviews from other sources

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Care after premenopausal risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy in high-risk women: Scoping review and international consensus recommendations

BJOG

Clinical practice guidelines for the antenatal management of dichorionic diamniotic twin pregnancies: a systematic review

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Delayed interval delivery in a quadruplet pregnancy: a case report and literature review

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Diagnostic accuracy of ultrasound in the diagnosis of Placenta accreta spectrum: systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Effect of COVID-19 vaccinations on menstrual cycle and postmenopausal bleeding among health care workers: A cross-sectional study

International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

Effect of mode of delivery on perinatal outcome in severe preterm birth: systematic review and meta-analysis

Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology

Efforts to transfer ectopic embryos to the uterine cavity: A systematic review

Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

Experiences of water immersion during childbirth: a qualitative thematic synthesis

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Impact of FIGO type 3 uterine fibroids on in vitro fertilization outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis

International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

Less-invasive autopsy for early pregnancy loss

Prenatal Diagnosis

Maternal alcohol consumption and the risk of miscarriage in the first and second trimesters: a systematic review and dose–response meta-analysis

Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica

Midwives' and women's understanding of cytomegalovirus infection during pregnancy

British Journal of Midwifery

Midwives' knowledge, education and training in providing care to women with female genital mutilation

British Journal of Midwifery

Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) in twin pregnancies affected by early single fetal demise: A systematic review of NIPT and vanishing twins

Prenatal Diagnosis

Ophthalmic artery Doppler in the complementary diagnosis of preeclampsia: a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Outcome of twin–twin transfusion syndrome complicated by selective fetal growth restriction: systematic review and meta-analysis

Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology

[Placenta-associated adverse pregnancy outcomes in women experiencing mild or severe hyperemesis gravidarum – a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[Prediction of fetal and neonatal outcomes after preterm manifestations of placental insufficiency: systematic review of prediction models](#)
Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology

[Prevalence and related factors of eating disorders in pregnancy: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Prevention of spinal hypotension during cesarean section: A systematic review and Bayesian network meta-analysis based on ephedrine, phenylephrine, and norepinephrine](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

[Rotation of the uterus to obtain a lower transverse incision in the posterior wall in a cesarean section: a case report and literature review](#)
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

[Simulation and midwifery education 2011–2021: a systematic review](#)
British Journal of Midwifery

[Surgical outcomes of sacrospinous ligament fixation at the time of vaginal hysterectomy for vaginal vault prolapse prevention: 10 years review](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

[Systematic review analyzing significance of endometrial cavity fluid during assisted reproductive techniques](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[The association of hyperuricemia and maternal and fetal outcomes among pregnant women: a meta-analysis](#)
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

[The relation between sleep quality during pregnancy and health-related quality of life—a systematic review](#)
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

[The role of transperineal ultrasonography for perinatal management: A review](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

[The roles of multi-component interventions in reducing mistreatment of women and enhancing respectful maternity care: a systematic review](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[The safety of trial of labor after cesarean section \(TOLAC\) versus elective repeat cesarean section \(ERCS\): a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

[Thoracic organ transplantation and pregnancy outcomes: systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Trends in obstetric anal sphincter injury in spontaneous vaginal delivery versus operative vaginal delivery over a 10-year period: Lessons learned](#)
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[Uterine arteries pulsatility index by Doppler ultrasound in the prediction of preeclampsia: an updated systematic review and meta-analysis](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics



This month's clinical questions are...

Archive Question:

[Does antenatal betamethasone prior to elective cesarean section at term help improve neonatal outcomes?](#)

Primary Research

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Gynaecology

[Analgesic efficacy of continuous wound infiltration compared with continuous intravenous fentanyl after gynaecological surgery: a non-inferiority, randomised controlled trial](#)
BJOG

[Clinical observation of laser combined with 5-aminolevulinic acid photodynamic therapy for female vulva condyloma acuminatum](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

[Comparative analysis of the clinical efficacy and reproductive outcomes of the hysteroscopic tissue removal system \(MyoSure\) and hysteroscopic electroresection in the treatment of benign intrauterine lesions](#)
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[Diagnostic outcomes after colposcopy at a tertiary clinic for women aged 50–74 referred after detection of oncogenic human papillomavirus at primary screening](#)
ANZOG

[Does virtual reality technology reduce pain and anxiety during outpatient hysteroscopy? A randomised controlled trial](#)
BJOG

[Efficacy of octreotide to reduce lymphorrhoea and prevent lymphocele after pelvic lymph node excision in gynecological malignancies](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

[Efficacy of reconstituted intravenous fentanyl to sublingual solution versus oral morphine syrup for breakthrough pain among patients with chronic gynecologic cancer pain: A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

[Evaluation of the effect of preoperative rectal misoprostol use on the postoperative outcomes of hysteroscopic myomectomy](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

[Evaluating compliance and applicability of postpartum pessary use for preventing and treating pelvic floor dysfunction: a prospective multicenter study](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Health literacy in women with chronic pelvic pain](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Hysteroscopic biopsy compared with endometrial curettage to assess the preoperative rate of atypical hyperplasia underestimating endometrial carcinoma](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Impact of a brochure and empathetic physician communication on patients' perception of breast biopsies](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy versus vaginal sacrospinous fixation for vaginal vault prolapse: a randomised controlled trial and prospective cohort \(SALTO-2 trial\)](#)
BJOG

[Natural progression of deep pelvic endometriosis in women who opt for expectant management](#)
Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica

[Ogilvie syndrome after cesarean section](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Pregnancy after laparoscopic surgery for endometriosis: How long should we wait? A retrospective study involving a long-term follow up at a university endometriosis center](#)
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[Reducing urinary tract infection in female pelvic surgery: A retrospective cohort study](#)
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[Sentinel lymph node mapping in the modern management of gynaecological malignancy](#)
The Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

[The length of the sanitary napkins can be used as a handier index than pictorial blood loss assessment chart to predict the heavy menstrual bleeding](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

Maternity/Obstetrics

[Adverse infant outcomes following low-risk pregnancies in England: a retrospective cohort study](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[Amniotic fluid CD36 in pregnancies complicated by spontaneous preterm delivery: a retrospective cohort study](#)
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

[Analysis of risk factors for patients with cesarean scar pregnancy treated with methotrexate combined with suction curettage](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Anatomy of the fetal membranes: insights from spinning disk confocal microscopy](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Assessment of abnormal placentation in pregnancies conceived with assisted reproductive technology](#)
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[Association between HIF-1 \$\alpha\$, BNIP3, and autophagy in the chorionic villi of missed abortion](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

Association between routine cell salvage use for lower segment caesarean section and post-operative iron infusion and anemia
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Incidence of obstetric anal sphincter injuries following breech compared to cephalic vaginal births
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Asymptomatic bacteriuria in pregnancy
ANZOG

Birth-related posttraumatic stress disorder and negative childbirth experience related to maternal functioning among adolescent mothers: a cross-sectional study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Clinical, ultrasonographic, and functional outcomes after obstetric anal sphincter injury primary repair: A single-center experience
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

Comparing the effectiveness of virtual and semi-attendance Stress Inoculation Training [SIT] techniques in improving the symptoms of anxiety, depression, and stress of pregnant women with psychological distress: a multicenter randomized controlled trial
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Comparison of adverse reactions of spiramycin versus pyrimethamine/sulfadiazine treatment of toxoplasmosis in pregnancy: is spiramycin really the drug of choice for unproven infection of the fetus?
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

Comparison of ductus venosus Doppler and cerebroplacental ratio for the prediction of adverse perinatal outcome in high-risk pregnancies before and after 34 weeks
Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica

Copper and zinc deficiency to the risk of preterm labor in pregnant women: a case-control study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Cost-effectiveness of closed incision negative pressure wound therapy in preventing surgical site infection among obese women giving birth by caesarean section: An economic evaluation (DRESSING trial)
ANZOG

Diagnostic accuracy of pre-induction cervical elastography, volume, length, and uterocervical angle for the prediction of successful induction of labor with dinoprostone
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Effect of levothyroxine treatment on fetal growth among women with mild subclinical hypothyroidism and thyroid peroxidase antibody negative: a cohort study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Effectiveness and adverse effects of vaginal misoprostol as a single agent for second trimester pregnancy termination: the impact of fetal viability
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Effects of cord clamping timing in at-term elective cesarean section on maternal and neonatal outcomes: a randomized trial
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Efficacy of resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta for hemorrhage control in patients with abnormally invasive placenta: a historical cohort study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[Exploring midwives' emotional wellbeing: evaluation of a survey using cognitive interviews](#)
British Journal of Midwifery

[Exploring trends of severe postpartum haemorrhage: a hospital-based study](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[Eye-masks and earplugs compared to headband in nulliparas on increasing spontaneous vaginal delivery: a randomized trial](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[Factors associated with higher risk of small-for-gestational-age infants in women treated for gestational diabetes](#)
ANZOG

[Fetal abdominal cysts: Predicting adverse outcomes](#)
Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica

[Fetal heart rate changes and labor neuraxial analgesia: a machine learning approach](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[First trimester identification of fetal sex by ultrasound](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Gestational diabetes mellitus and time in active labor: A population-based cohort study](#)
Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica

[Immediate skin-to-skin contact versus care under radiant warmer at birth in moderate to late preterm neonates – A randomized controlled trial](#)
Resuscitation

[Impact of a previous late miscarriage on subsequent pregnancy outcomes: A retrospective cohort study over 10 years](#)
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[Impact of COVID-19 vaccination on menstrual cycle in women of reproductive age](#)
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[Impact of prenatal corticosteroid therapy on sickle cell disease in pregnant women](#)
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[Implementation of the combined use of non-invasive fetal electrocardiography and electrohysterography during labor: A prospective clinical study](#)
Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica

[Interactive effects of gestational diabetes mellitus and maximum level of total bile acid in maternal serum on adverse pregnancy outcomes in women with intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[Is prophylactic intraoperative abdominal aortic balloon occlusion beneficial in pregnancies with placenta previa and placenta accreta spectrum during cesarean section? A 5-year retrospective study](#)
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[Is there a relation between stillbirth and low levels of vitamin D in the population? A bi-national follow-up study of vitamin D fortification](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[Long-term maternal mortality risk following spontaneous preterm birth: A retrospective cohort study](#)
BJOG

Loss of control eating during pregnancy is associated with excessive gestational weight gain among individuals with overweight and obesity
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Maternal stress during the third trimester of pregnancy and the neonatal microbiome
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

Measuring resilience and stress during pregnancy and its relation to vulnerability and pregnancy outcomes in a nulliparous cohort study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Noninvasive prenatal testing, ultrasonographic findings and poor prenatal diagnosis rates for twin pregnancies: a retrospective study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Optimizing the timing of antenatal corticosteroid administration prior to anticipated preterm birth: A retrospective cohort study
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

Perinatal outcome after selective fetal reduction in monochorionic twin pregnancies: A comparison of techniques over a 20-year period
Prenatal Diagnosis

Pregnancy outcomes and neonatal thyroid function in women with thyroid cancer: a retrospective study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Pregnancy outcomes in patients with portal cavernoma: A case series study
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

Perinatal outcomes of monochorionic triplet pregnancies: multicenter cohort study
Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology

Prenatal care and infant outcomes of teenage births: a Project WATCH study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Prevalence and risk factors for postnatal mental health problems in mothers of infants admitted to neonatal care: analysis of two population-based surveys in England
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Psychological distress during pregnancy and adverse maternal and perinatal health outcomes: The role of socioeconomic status
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

Quantitative strain elastography of the uterine cervix assessed by the GE Voluson E10 system in combination with a force-measuring device
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

Retrospective study to assess the effect of epidural analgesia on labor progress and women's pelvic floor muscle from the perspective of electromyography
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

Risk factors for a serious adverse outcome in neonates: a retrospective cohort study of vaginal births
BJOG

Self-monitoring of blood glucose two-weekly versus weekly in gestational diabetes on nutrition therapy: A randomized trial
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[SPAM—sub partial analgesia with meptazinol: a prospective cohort study comparing intramuscular with intravenous administration](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

[Successful live birth following a short course of glucocorticoid suppression in a patient with autoimmune polyglandular syndrome type 2 and premature ovarian insufficiency: A case report](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

[Sucrosomial® iron effectiveness in recovering from mild and moderate iron-deficiency anemia in the postpartum period](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[Supporting families during baby loss](#)
British Journal of Midwifery

[Surgical technique for fertility preservation for placenta accreta spectrum without previa: Tourniquet, uterus inversion and placental dissection procedure](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

[Tender loving care following recurrent miscarriages: a review of a dedicated antenatal clinic](#)
British Journal of Midwifery

[The impact of extending the second stage of labor on repeat cesarean section and maternal and neonatal outcome](#)
International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

[The impact of recommending iron supplements to women with depleted iron stores in early pregnancy on use of supplements, and factors associated with changes in iron status from early pregnancy to postpartum in a multi-ethnic population-based cohort](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[The optimal gestational age to deliver patients with chronic hypertension on antihypertensive therapy](#)
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

[The optimal induction timing in prelabor rupture of membranes: a retrospective study](#)
The Journal of Maternal-Fetal & Neonatal Medicine

[The predictive value of HALP score and systemic immune inflammation \(SII\) index in hyperemesis gravidarum](#)
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

[The relationship between personality traits and individual factors with perinatal depressive symptoms: a cross-sectional study](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[The role of oral and prenatal healthcare providers in the promotion of oral health for pregnant women](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[The role of routine first-trimester ultrasound screening for central nervous system abnormalities: a longitudinal single-center study using an unselected cohort with 3-year experience](#)
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

[The utility of inpatient anemia workup in hemoglobin < 10 g/dL diagnosed randomly in the third trimester: a retrospective study](#)
Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Topical negative pressure wound therapy to prevent wound complications following caesarean delivery in high-risk obstetric patients: A randomised controlled trial
ANZOG

Treatment, not delivery, of the late preterm and term fetus with supraventricular arrhythmia
Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology

Trial of labour versus elective caesarean delivery for estimated large for gestational age fetuses after prior caesarean delivery: a multicenter retrospective study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Understanding the self-management experiences and support needs during pregnancy among women with pre-existing diabetes: a qualitative descriptive study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Using dinoprostone slow release vaginal insert for cervical ripening in term-pregnancy with oligohydramnios
Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research

Validation of a tool for determining the clinical utility of stillbirth investigations
ANZOG

Vascular ring: prenatal diagnosis and prognostic management based on sequential cross-sectional scanning by ultrasound
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Vitamin D deficiency in pregnancy and the risk of preterm birth: a nested case–control study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Women's knowledge of and attitudes towards group B streptococcus (GBS) testing in pregnancy: a qualitative study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

Women's subjective perceptions and background factors associated with poor maternal childbirth experience among induced and spontaneous onset of labour: a two-year tertiary hospital cohort study
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

BMJ Best Practice

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- **24 May 2023**Topic: [Assessment of vaginal discharge](#)
- **19 May 2023**Topic: [Contraception](#)
- **12 May 2023**Topic: [Brachial plexus birth injury](#)
- **12 May 2023**Topic: [Chronic pelvic pain in women](#)
- **11 May 2023**Topic: [Assessment of dysmenorrhoea](#)

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[What's new in obstetrics and gynecology](#)

Cerclage placement at 24 to 27 weeks of gestation (May 2023)

Cerclage placement at 24 to 28 weeks of gestation is controversial because of concerns that efficacy has not been proven and related complications may lead to an extremely preterm birth (PTB). In a meta-analysis of individual patient-level data from four randomized trials of cerclage versus no cerclage in 131 singleton pregnancies at 24+0/7 to 26+6/7 weeks of gestation, cerclage did not result in statistically significant reductions in PTB <37, 34, 32, or 28 weeks nor

improvement in any neonatal outcome [1]. PTB <37 weeks was not reduced even in subgroups with cervical length ≤ 15 mm or ≤ 10 mm. However, confidence intervals were wide, and modest benefits or harms cannot be excluded. In the absence of reassuring data of efficacy and safety, we do not perform cerclage at ≥ 24 weeks of gestation. (See "[Transvaginal cervical cerclage](#)", section on '[Upper and lower gestational age thresholds for cerclage placement](#)'.)

Biomarker test approved for predicting preeclampsia progression (May 2023)

In stable patients with a hypertensive disorder of pregnancy, it is difficult to predict when severe features of preeclampsia (sFP) will develop. Assessment of the antiangiogenic factor, soluble fms-like tyrosine kinase 1 (sFlt-1), and the proangiogenic factor, placental growth factor (PlGF), in maternal blood may be useful. In the PRAECIS study of hospitalized patients with a hypertensive disorder of pregnancy between 23+0 and 34+6 weeks of gestation, those with sFlt-1:PlGF below the threshold had <5 percent chance of developing sFP within two weeks, while those above the threshold had a 65 percent chance of developing sFP [2]. Based on these findings, in May 2023, the US Food and Drug Administration approved use of the sFlt-1:PlGF test for pregnant patients hospitalized for a hypertensive disorder of pregnancy [3]. Clinicians may find use of this test along with other laboratory tests and clinical assessments helpful for managing these patients. (See "[Preeclampsia: Antepartum management and timing of delivery](#)", section on '[Inpatient versus outpatient care](#)'.)

Caffeine consumption and congenital anomalies (May 2023)

The safety of caffeine consumption during pregnancy is an ongoing concern. An update of the 1997-2011 US National Birth Defects Study compared children born with versus without congenital anomalies stratified by maternal self-reported pre- and early pregnancy caffeine intake and found associations with 10 congenital anomalies [4]. However, causality is unlikely given the lack of dose-response relationships, small effect size (odds ratios 1.2 to 1.7), residual confounding, retrospective subjective ascertainment of caffeine consumption, likelihood of chance due to the large number of estimates, and other study limitations. We continue to suggest that individuals who are attempting to conceive or pregnant limit caffeine consumption to less than 200 to 300 mg per day until more conclusive data are available. (See "[Caffeine: Effects on reproductive outcomes in females](#)", section on '[Congenital anomalies](#)'.)

Interruption of endocrine therapy for an attempt at pregnancy after breast cancer (May 2023)

There are few data informing the risks of interrupting adjuvant endocrine therapy for breast cancer survivors desiring pregnancy. In a study in 516 patients with early breast cancer who had received adjuvant endocrine therapy for 18 to 30 months and desired pregnancy, endocrine therapy was interrupted upon enrollment, and pregnancy occurred in 74 percent [5]. The three-year rate of breast cancer events was 8.9 percent, which was similar to the rate in an external control group who met study entry criteria aside from desire for pregnancy and treatment interruption (9.2 percent). These data suggest that endocrine therapy interruption for pregnancy does not increase short-term risks of breast cancer recurrence, but longer-term data are required. We typically advise women to wait for at least two years before attempting pregnancy to ensure that the patient does not have early cancer recurrence prior to a pregnancy attempt. (See "[Approach to the patient following treatment for breast cancer](#)", section on '[Fertility and pregnancy after breast cancer](#)'.)

Multicomponent intervention for postpartum hemorrhage (May 2023)

Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) is a major cause of maternal morbidity and mortality globally. In a randomized trial comparing a multicomponent intervention for PPH versus usual care in over 210,000 vaginal births at secondary-level hospitals across Africa, using a calibrated blood-collection drape and a bundle of first-line treatments (eg, uterine massage, uterotonic medications, [tranexamic acid](#)) reduced the composite outcome (blood loss ≥ 1000 mL, laparotomy for bleeding, maternal death from bleeding) by 60 percent (1.6 versus 4.3 percent) [18]. The efficacy of the intervention likely derived from improved detection of PPH coupled with consistent implementation of the evidence-based treatment bundle. Although the trial was conducted in low- and middle-income countries, a similar approach has been suggested for high-income countries. (See "[Overview of postpartum hemorrhage](#)", section on '[Early recognition, assessment, and intervention](#)'.)

Intravenous iron during pregnancy (May 2023)

Oral iron is generally used to treat iron deficiency in pregnancy, especially during the first trimester. However, intravenous (IV) iron may be indicated in some cases and has the advantage of providing the entire dose in a single infusion. In a new open-label trial from Malawi that randomly assigned 862 pregnant individuals at a median gestational age of 22 weeks with hemoglobin <10 g/dL to receive IV or oral iron, the IV iron group had a lower incidence of iron deficiency at all time points and a lower incidence of anemia that reached statistical significance at some time points [19]. IV iron is especially useful for severe anemia and later in pregnancy when rapid repletion is needed. (See "[Anemia in pregnancy](#)", section on 'Oral versus IV iron'.)

Prednisone use during in vitro fertilization (May 2023)

[Prednisone](#) is often used during in vitro fertilization (IVF) to improve the chances of implantation, and thereby live birth, in patients with a prior unsuccessful embryo transfer. However, a randomized trial comparing oral prednisone with placebo in over 700 patients <38 years of age with two or more unsuccessful embryo transfers reported similar live birth rates in both groups after frozen-thawed embryo transfer [32]. We do not prescribe prednisone during IVF cycles, including for patients with prior unsuccessful embryo transfer. (See "[In vitro fertilization: Overview of clinical issues and questions](#)", section on 'No proven effect'.)

Online Resources

[BestBETs](#) - BETs bring the evidence one step closer to the bedside, by providing answers to very specific clinical problems, using the best available evidence.

[BNF](#) – British National Formulary

[Royal College of Midwives](#) – clinical practice and guidelines (members only access)

[The Royal Marsden Manual of Clinical Procedures](#) – available via your Athens login

Journals & table of contents alerts

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Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics	BJOG : an International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
British Journal of Midwifery	European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Midwifery	MIDRS