

ABCDs of Obstetric Emergencies

Online Course



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Accreditation: RACGP (Activity Number 210597) & ACRRM (Activity Number: 20624) for the 2020-2022 triennium

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the program participants should be able to:

1. Discriminate the differential diagnosis and management of PV bleeding in early pregnancy
2. Structure the ED clinical assessment of the Pregnant Patient
3. Prioritise the clinical presentation and immediate management of the patient with severe preeclampsia or eclampsia
4. Differentiate the differential diagnosis and management of PV bleeding in late pregnancy
5. Structure the emergency management of labour and delivery
6. Outline the clinical presentation and emergency management of postpartum haemorrhage
7. Prioritise the emergency management of the newborn requiring resuscitation

Summary of the e-Learning Program

The e-learning is interactive and requires the clinician to consider a range of the clinical problems and scenarios and provide a response. At the end of each topic a summative quiz is used to evaluate learning and understanding of the topic material. There are five topics, each expected to take the medical practitioner between 90 – 120 minutes to complete with a total course time of 9.5 hours.

The five topics are

1. Emergencies in Early Pregnancy
2. ED Assessment and Management of Pre-Eclampsia / Eclampsia
3. Assessment and Management PV Bleeding in Late Pregnancy
4. Managing Delivery in the Emergency Department
5. Managing the Patient with Post Partum Haemorrhage
6. Neonatal Resuscitation

Outline of the Program

Pre - Course Quiz

1. Emergencies in early pregnancy

Module Summary: Bleeding and / or pelvic pain in the first trimester is a common acute presentation in the pregnant patient. In most patients the symptom will be the result of a threatened or complete miscarriage. A cautious approach however should be routinely applied to the assessment of patients with first trimester bleeding aiming first to rule out the major life threats including ectopic pregnancy, septic abortion and incomplete miscarriage.

Interaction/Assessment:

- Interactive Clinical Casebook: PV Bleeding in Early Pregnancy (Formative assessment: 60 mins)
- Topic Quiz: PV Bleeding in Early Pregnancy (Summative assessment: 30 mins)

2. Pre-Eclampsia / Eclampsia

Module summary: Although patients > 20 weeks presenting with pregnancy related presentations will frequently be referred on for obstetric review a knowledge of the presentation and management of the important complications of late pregnancy is an essential skill for health professionals working in acute care. This module explores the case of a patient who presents with pre-eclampsia, a complication that requires early diagnosis and intervention.

Interaction/Assessment:

- Interactive Clinical Casebook: Pre-eclampsia (Formative assessment: 60 mins)
- Topic Quiz: Pre-eclampsia / Eclampsia (Summative assessment: 30 mins)

3. PV Bleeding in Late Pregnancy

Module summary: Antepartum haemorrhage refers to PV bleeding after 20 weeks gestation. Vaginal bleeding in late pregnancy is a major cause of maternal morbidity and mortality and is associated with a significant risk to the fetus. This module discusses a clinical case of PV bleeding in late pregnancy and identifies the immediate priorities in ED assessment and resuscitation, differential diagnosis, role of investigations, ED management and disposition.

Interaction/Assessment:

- Interactive Clinical Casebook: PV Bleeding in Late Pregnancy (Formative assessment: 60 mins)
- Topic Quiz: Bleeding in Late Pregnancy (Summative assessment: 30 mins)

4. Emergency Delivery

Module summary: Imminent delivery is a scenario few in the emergency department are experienced with. Although there is a lot of anxiety with this, most of the time the baby will deliver with minimal assistance. In this module we focus on the management of a normal delivery and the immediate after delivery care of the mother and baby. The module reviews the stages of labour, care of a woman in labour, immediate management of the newborn and management of third stage of labour.

Interaction/Assessment:

- Interactive Clinical Casebook: Emergency Delivery (Formative assessment: 60 mins)
- Topic Quiz: Emergency Delivery (Summative assessment: 30 mins)

5. Managing the Patient with Post Partum Haemorrhage

Module summary: Postpartum haemorrhage is the most common complication of labour and delivery and results in blood loss that may lead to the patient to becoming haemodynamically unstable. PPH is defined as blood loss of 500 mls or more during and after childbirth. The causes of Post Partum Haemorrhage may be remembered by the mnemonic 4 Ts - Tone, Tissue, Trauma and Thrombin. The clinical picture is one of developing haemorrhagic shock and requires immediate treatment.

Interaction/Assessment:

- Interactive Clinical Casebook: Post Partum Haemorrhage (Formative assessment: 60 mins)
- Topic Quiz: Post Partum Haemorrhage (Summative assessment: 30 mins)

6. Newborn Resuscitation

Module summary: Approximately 10% of all newborns require some form of “resuscitation” immediately after birth. As time is critical after birth of a child it is important to be able to recognise the infant requiring urgent resuscitation and be familiar with the steps in resuscitation. The following module examines the current guidelines for resuscitation of the newborn.

Interaction/Assessment:

- Interactive Clinical Casebook: Newborn Resuscitation (Formative assessment: 60 mins)
- Topic Quiz: Newborn REsuscitation (Summative assessment: 30 mins)

7. Final Post Course Assessment Quiz

Final Course Quiz – ABCDs of Obstetric Emergencies (Summative assessment: 30 mins)