

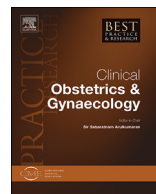


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Preface

Controversies in Urogynaecology



In the field of urogynaecology, we have seen a number of significant developments during the past few years. Without doubt, the biggest controversy has been related to the role of synthetic slings in women with stress urinary incontinence. While the use of these devices has the backing of more than 2000 scientific papers, they continue to be vilified in the English-speaking lay press. In this edition, we present a comprehensive scientific overview of the role of the retropubic and transobturator tapes in women with stress incontinence.

Recent work by Ian Milsom and his colleagues has seen a paradigm shift in the prediction of the possible role of caesarean section in the prevention of pelvic floor dysfunction. Big data have emerged as a powerful tool in constructing various predictive models, and these models are discussed in a comprehensive review. These will, no doubt, form part of standard obstetric practice in the near future.

Ultrasound has also seen broad acceptance as a diagnostic modality in women with pelvic organ prolapse. In this publication of Controversies in Urogynaecology, the role of ultrasound in surgical planning and risk stratification is investigated.

Urinary tract injury during pelvic surgery requires prompt diagnosis and diligent and appropriate management. Many gynaecologists will manage these in collaboration with a urologist. Lisa Kaestner gives us a urological approach for the damage of the urinary tract during pelvic surgery. In keeping with the theme of urinary tract injury, two perspectives on the approach to vesico-vaginal fistula are presented to us. Dr Breen discusses their management, with a particular emphasis on obstetric fistula, while Dr Ramphal looks at a modern laparoscopic approach.

Knowledge of anatomy is essential for a safe and efficient surgery. Dr Muavha looks at the role of laparoscopic anatomy in the varying techniques of laparoscopic sacrocolpopexy.

Urogynaecology is changing rapidly, and we believe this edition of 'Controversies' looks at a number of important new aspects of the field.

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