Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation

40 Years of Reproductive Research at WHO

Guest Editors
Flavia Bustreo, Geneva, Switzerland
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Polycystic Ovary Syndrome

Novel Insights into Causes and Therapy

Editors
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Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is the most frequent disorder affecting women of reproductive age. Recent years have shown substantial advances in our understanding of the complex genetic, biochemical, metabolic, cardiovascular, and reproductive issues associated with PCOS. This book presents a comprehensive overview of recent clinical developments in identifying the phenotypic expression of women with PCOS resulting in a completely new recognition of its phenotypic variability. Metabolic and cardiovascular consequences of the syndrome are discussed in detail. Advances made in dealing with secondary forms of PCOS-like syndromes are presented as well as specific therapies of clinical manifestations and their outcomes. Additionally, a number of hot topics are included presenting genetic developments, endothelial causes leading to unfavorable outcomes, and novelties in therapeutic approaches dealing with metabolic and reproductive consequences. Covering phenotypic characteristics, diagnostic criteria, central pathophysiological mechanisms, metabolic, cardiovascular and reproductive aspects, and modern therapeutic approaches, this book is a useful tool for general practitioners, gynecologists, pediatricians, internists, endocrinologists, as well as cardiologists.

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For systematic reviews of studies examining interventions or diagnostic procedures, we refer to the Cochrane Collaboration (www.Cochrane.org). As they represent ‘the state of the art’, they provide an exceptionally useful handbook. Systematic reviews need not only be the results of intervention studies but can be made on all kinds of research questions, even those that can only be answered by non-experimental studies or interpretive research. For example, a systematic review can be made on qualitative studies – for the ‘Qualitative method group’ of reviews, the Cochrane Collaboration is a useful information source. All systematic reviews must take and document the following steps:
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an intervention study it must specify population, intervention, control group and outcome.

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3. Systematic literature search. For a systematic review, the search strategy for the literature should be reported and should be repeatable. It includes several steps: a literature search to identify optimal key search terms, databases and search strategy; the search itself; the search of the reference lists of all included studies for the identification of additional studies (snowball method).

4. Selection of relevant studies. This must be done on the basis of selection criteria (e.g. populations, outcome measures, …) to include/exclude (described in the protocol). It protects the review from investigator bias, e.g. (un)consciously including studies on the basis of their results.

5. Evaluation of the methodological quality of each study. The quality of a systematic review depends on the methodological quality of the studies included. Therefore, all studies must be assessed for methodological rigor because the results are only valid if the methods are. Critical appraisal of all studies must be reported and, depending on the research design, controlled.

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- Reason for inclusion or exclusion by authors of specific publications

- Summary table of included publications allowing comparison regarding significant findings
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This category replaces the previous Case Report section.
We invite contributions to this section that provide novel insight into a clinical problem.
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Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
2nd, revised and extended edition

Editor
Charles Sultan

The extended contents of this second edition reflect the growing spectrum of topics in pediatric and adolescent gynecology. Like its predecessor, this book addresses the most common gynecological problems encountered in childhood medicine, including endocrinological and surgical aspects. New chapters place particular emphasis on an update of technological aspects such as ultrasound, molecular genetics, surgery in sex disorders and new problems encountered in reproductive medicine.

The book opens with a comprehensive description of the background of infant and adolescent gynecology and diagnostic tools. Several chapters are devoted to the various pathologies encountered in prepubertal and adolescent girls. Contemporary social issues such as sexual abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, contraception for teenagers and teenage pregnancy are also discussed in detail.

Presenting a clear plan for clinical management and treatment of frequently encountered problems in prepubertal and adolescent girls, this book should be read by pediatricians, endocrinologists, gynecologists and family practitioners.

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40 Years of Reproductive Research at WHO

This volume is a ‘must read’ resource on 40 years of research to develop and guide interventions for improving sexual and reproductive health by HRP, the Special Programme for Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction hosted by WHO and co-sponsored by UNDP, UNFPA, WHO and The World Bank. Insights are provided on how HRP was established to conduct research to address evolving needs in human reproduction. Over the years, HRP has been a global leader in the generation and synthesis of evidence on new methodologies in the field. It contributed to defining the concept of reproductive health and assists countries in their efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals and targets, especially that for achieving universal access to reproductive health. This special issue provides a chronicle of its achievements and includes significant references on its pioneering work. Tracing the history of HRP through informative articles, this work will provide valuable reading for all those interested in the areas of family planning, obstetrics, fertility, gynecology, AIDS research, andrology and epidemiology.