



Obstetrics & Gynaecology Evidence Update (July 2026)

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Reviews & Meta Analyses:

The efficacy of tranexamic acid for the prevention of postpartum hemorrhage among women at high risk of postpartum hemorrhage undergoing cesarean section: a meta-analysis [OPEN ACCESS]

Gao, Q et al., BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth, 9 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Transforming maternity care in England after Ockenden: reducing unwarranted caesarean birth while advancing safety and equity [OPEN ACCESS]

Abdalla M et al., Current Obstetrics and Gynecology Reports, 10 July 2026 15(1) [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Less frequent versus more frequent cervical examinations in labor: a systematic review and meta-analysis [OPEN ACCESS]

Petrecca, A et al., European Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Biology, 17 July 2026 325, pp. 115319 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Efficacy and safety of intravenous ferric carboxymaltose versus oral iron in pregnant women with anemia: a systematic review and meta-analysis [NHS OPENATHENS LOGIN REQUIRED]

Ali, M.S et al., European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, 10 July 2026 82(8) [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Severe maternal and neonatal morbidity or mortality in forceps versus cesarean birth in the second stage of labor: a systematic review and meta-analysis [OPEN ACCESS]

Oltean, I.I et al., International Journal of Gynaecology & Obstetrics. 29 June 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Network meta-analysis of tocolytics in preterm labor: establishing an evidence-based treatment hierarchy [OPEN ACCESS]

Gardella, B et al., International Journal of Gynaecology & Obstetrics, 22 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Episcissors-60 in obstetrics anal sphincter injury (OASI): a systematic review and meta-analysis [NHS

OPENATHENS LOGIN REQUIRED]

Hammouri, W et al., International Urogynecology Journal, 7 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Manual rotation and maternal positioning for managing fetal occiput posterior position during labor: a network meta-analysis [OPEN ACCESS]

Maghalian M et al., Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 21 July 2026 46(1) [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Risk factors for episiotomy during vaginal birth: a systematic review and meta-analysis [OPEN ACCESS]

Feng, J et al., Medicine, 10 July 2026 105(28), pp. e49662 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Randomised Trials & Observational Studies:

RCTS:

Efficacy of prophylactic tranexamic acid use after vaginal delivery according to postpartum hemorrhage risk: randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial [NHS OPENATHENS LOGIN REQUIRED]

Tosun O et al., Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research, 1 June 2026 52(6) [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Intentional weight loss before endometrial cancer surgery to support postoperative recovery (ENDO-CARE): a multicentre, feasibility randomised controlled trial in England [OPEN ACCESS]

Koutoukidis, D et al., The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology, & Women's Health, 9 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Observational Studies:

Designation of small for gestational age according to seven fetal growth charts in England's National Health Service: population based cohort study of 3.2 million births [OPEN ACCESS]

Gardosi, J et al., BMJ, 8 July 2026 394, pp. e433307 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Epidural analgesia in labour and neonatal and childhood outcomes: national population based cohort study [OPEN ACCESS]

Kearns, R.J et al., BMJ, 15 July 2026 394, pp. e343320 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Childbirth acquired perineal trauma (CHAPTER) study: a cohort study investigating health outcomes after childbirth-related perineal trauma [OPEN ACCESS]

Wang, Z et al., Acta Obstetrica Et Gynecologica Scandinavica, 16 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Carbetocin and oxytocin use in emergency cesarean delivery: a prospective observational study of 24-hour bleeding outcomes [OPEN ACCESS]

Eryilmaz, T et al., BMC Pregnancy & Childbirth, 11 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Labour dynamics after induction in nulliparous IVF/ICSI and spontaneous pregnancies: a matched cohort study [NHS OPENATHENS LOGIN REQUIRED]

Seidenari, A et al., BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, 6 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Migraine and risk of adverse obstetric outcomes: a matched cohort study of English linked electronic health records [OPEN ACCESS]

Phillips, K et al., BMC Medicine, 7 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Major postpartum haemorrhage in nulliparous women stratified by induction and augmentation of labour and mode of birth from 2000 -2024: a population-based cohort study in the Netherlands [OPEN ACCESS]

Broeders, L et al., European Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Biology, 1 July 2026 325, pp. 115282 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Third-stage uterotonic management after second-trimester induction of labour: a retrospective cohort study
Prue D et al., European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, 18 July 2026 325
[\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Temporal and socioeconomic trends in hospital admissions for miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy in England, 2004–2024: a nationwide study [OPEN ACCESS]
Sekar, S et al., The Lancet Regional Health – Europe, 29 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Obstetric Ultrasound:

Utility of ultrasound surveillance of fetal growth in patients with marginal or velamentous cord insertion [OPEN ACCESS]
Pence, M et al., Pregnancy, July 2026 2(4), pp. e70329 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Ultrasound measurements of gestational sac diameter and crown-rump length in intrauterine pregnancy of uncertain prognosis: a systematic review
Kalantari, H et al., Ultrasound, 26 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Midwifery:

Optimising fetal growth monitoring in midwifery-led care: audit findings and women's experiences [NHS OPENATHENS LOGIN REQUIRED]
Stephanie, B, Shawe. J., British Journal of Midwifery, July 2026 34(7), pp. 376–382 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Equipping midwives for the future: embedding good clinical practice into midwifery education [NHS OPENATHENS LOGIN REQUIRED]
Edel, C., British Journal of Midwifery, July 2026 34(7), pp. 404–408 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Obstetric interventions and childbirth experience: a population-based cohort study [OPEN ACCESS]
Swift, E.M et al., Midwifery, 29 June 2026 161, pp. 104908 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

A narrative synthesis of lesbian and bisexual mothers' experiences of maternity care [OPEN ACCESS]
Howes, A et al., Midwifery, July 2026 158, pp. 104792 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

From 'dismissal' to 'medical gaslighting': a literature review of women's experiences of reproductive health services in the UK [OPEN ACCESS]
Kokab, F et al., Midwifery, August 2026 159, pp. 104823 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Breastfeeding and Lactation:

Domperidone use in lactation and risk of severe postpartum mental health outcomes [NHS OPENATHENS LOGIN REQUIRED]
Zipursky, J et al., Obstetrics & Gynecology, July 2026 148(1), pp. 132–139 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

The effectiveness of midwife-led and nurse-led interventions on breastfeeding self-efficacy and exclusive breastfeeding rates: a systematic review and meta-analysis
Anderson, G et al., Journal of Human Lactation, 18 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

New & Updated Cochrane Reviews

Reproductive and Sexual Health:

Recombinant follicle-stimulating hormone (rFSH) versus other recombinant or urinary gonadotropins for ovarian stimulation in assisted reproductive technology cycles

Robbert P Berkhout; Elena B Kostova; Madelon van Wely

Cochrane Clinical Answers:

How does feedback compare with usual care for helping pregnant women stop smoking?

Providing feedback to pregnant women may increase smoking abstinence in late pregnancy compared with usual care, although uncertainty remains. Its impact on smoking reduction and neonatal outcomes also remains unclear.

How does health education or exercise compare with usual care for helping pregnant women stop smoking?

Health education may help more women abstain from smoking in late pregnancy than usual care, with benefits possibly sustained postpartum. Exercise likely has little to no effect on smoking abstinence in late pregnancy, based on a single trial. Effects on infant outcomes remain unclear.

How do financial incentives compare with usual care or alternative interventions for helping pregnant women stop smoking?

Financial incentives contingent on smoking abstinence likely improve abstinence during late pregnancy and may sustain benefits postpartum, but their effects on smoking reduction are less clear, and the impact on neonatal outcomes appears mixed and uncertain.

How does counseling compare with usual care for helping pregnant women stop smoking?

Counseling likely helps women quit smoking during pregnancy and may improve abstinence postpartum. Regardless of the specific approach used, smoking cessation should be encouraged by any effective means given its substantial benefits for maternal and infant health. However, considerable variation in interventions across studies means it is unclear which approaches, modes of delivery, timing, and intensities are likely to be most effective and feasible for routine clinical practice.

For women undergoing assisted reproductive techniques (ART), does intentional endometrial injury help improve outcomes?

Based on the available evidence, the effects of endometrial injury (also known as endometrial scratching, defined as intentional damage to the endometrium to improve reproductive outcomes) in women undergoing their first in vitro fertilization (IVF) cycle or those with previous unsuccessful IVF attempts are unclear.

Practice Guidelines & Consensus:

Care of the newborn and cord during the third stage of labour (Scientific Impact Paper No. 78) [OPEN ACCESS]
Royal College of Obstetricians, and Gynaecologists et al., BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, 22 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Fertility problems: assessment and treatment—summary of updated NICE guidance [NHS OPENATHENS LOGIN REQUIRED]
Kallioinen, M et al., BMJ 394, 23 July 2026 pp. s944 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) in Pregnancy - An American College of Chest Physicians Clinical Practice Guideline
D'Ambrosio, C.M et al., Chest, 21 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Updated structured report for dynamic ultrasonography in patients with suspected or known endometriosis: Recommendations of the international society for gynecologic endoscopy (ISGE)
Djokovic, D et al., European Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Biology, 1 July 2026 325, pp. 115267 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Belgian guidance 2026 on management of pregnancy and breastfeeding in women living with HIV and their infants
Konopnicki, D et al., European Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Biology, 13 July 2026 325, pp. 115312 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

Pregnancy- and lactation-associated osteoporosis: a position statement of the IAPM, IOF, ECTS, ESCEO, IMS, and EMAS [OPEN ACCESS]
Hadji, P et al., International Journal of Gynaecology & Obstetrics, 16 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

European Society of Gynecological Oncology Consensus Statement on the prevention of surgical complications in gynecologic oncology
Haidopoulos, D et al., International Journal of Gynecological Cancer, 27 July 2026 36(9), pp. 104862 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

IUGA International guidelines on obstetric anal sphincter injuries [OPEN ACCESS]
Sultan, A. H et al., International Urogynecology Journal, 10 July 2026 [\[SUMMARY\]](#)

UK consensus on pregnancy in multiple sclerosis: an update to 'Association of British Neurologists' guidance [OPEN ACCESS]
Mullan, G et al., Multiple Sclerosis, 3 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

The Italian guidelines on high-risk pregnancy: Executive summary of recommendations for practice from the Italian Society for Obstetrics and Gynaecology (SIGO)
di Pasquo, E et al., European Journal of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Biology, 21 June 2026 324, pp. 115260 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

No. 469 Iron deficiency and iron deficiency anemia in obstetrics and gynaecology
Chen, I et al., Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology Canada: JOGC, 9 July 2026 103428 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

International expert consensus on the diagnosis and clinical management of primary fetal pleural effusion [NHS OPENATHENS LOGIN REQUIRED]
Abiad, M et al., Prenatal Diagnosis, 14 July 2026 [\[ABSTRACT\]](#)

News, Briefings, Reports & Analysis:

News:

[Hospital admissions for ectopic pregnancy on the rise in England – University of Liverpool \(30 July\)](#)

[Waiting Before Clamping the Umbilical Cord Improves Newborn Outcomes – RCOG \(23 July\)](#)

[‘National Pregnancy in Diabetes’ analysis reports promising outcomes for CamAPS FX in pregnancy care – Diabetes Times \(22 July\)](#)

[RCOG 'The Investigation and Management of the Small-for-Gestational-Age Fetus' Green-top Guideline update – RCOG \(21 July\)](#)

[CQC ratings can't be trusted, and burnt out doctors are on the verge of quitting, maternity review leads warn – BMJ \(20 July\)](#)

[Maternity scandal to be dramatised in new series – BBC \(20 July\)](#)

[One in five women attend A&E in first year after giving birth, analysis finds – BMJ \(16 July\)](#)

[‘Catastrophic outcomes’ threats from ‘inappropriate’ maternity tools – HSJ \(14 July\)](#)

[Acetaminophen use during pregnancy is unlikely to cause autism or ADHD, new study reaffirms – JAMA Network \(10 July\)](#)

[World-first study confirms innovative procedure is safe and has the potential to treat serious twin pregnancy condition – Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust \(10 July\)](#)

[Why the first trimester of a pregnancy could be vital in driving human brain evolution – Swansea University \(9 July\)](#)

[Endometriosis: “Game changing” new tests may speed up diagnosis in primary care – BMJ \(7 July\)](#)

[Fresh concerns over safety and quality at maternity scandal trust – HSJ \(7 July\)](#)

[Health professional training models ‘creating barriers for building trust’, rules maternity report – Nursing in Practice \(6 July\)](#)

[Yoga and Omega-3 as effective as psychological therapy for depression in pregnancy – King’s College London \(3 July\)](#)

Briefings, Reports & Analysis:

[Counting the cost: the economic impact of underserving women's health – ReState](#)

Improving women's health is not about better outcomes for a minority of patients. It is about giving half the population the care they are owed, and building a healthier, more productive, and more prosperous society. This paper explores how the systemic underservice of women's health impacts the economy and offers a set of practical actions to address this, helping to close the health gap for women and support them to stay in work

Who needs emergency care in the year after giving birth – Nuffield Trust

New analysis of 1.6 million births in England reveals that one in five women use emergency care services in the year after birth – with stark inequalities rooted in deprivation, ethnicity and pre-existing health conditions that often predate pregnancy by years. This report argues that improving maternity care alone is unlikely to be sufficient, with a need for genuine life-course approach to women's health.

Bumped out: why pregnancy and parenting support in the workplace must be a priority – Tommy's

This report highlights the lasting impact of gaps in workplace support during pregnancy, loss and early parenthood.

DynaMed Topic Updates: (NHS OPENATHENS LOGIN required to access DynaMed topics)

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM): The addition of myo-inositol to folic acid may reduce the risk of GDM in persons with GDM risk factors ([Am J Obstet Gynecol 2026 Jun 3 early online](#))

Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy: Lateral placental location in singleton pregnancy may be associated with increased risks of preeclampsia, small for gestational age, preterm birth (< 37 and < 34 weeks gestation), nonvertex fetal presentation, and retained placenta. ([BJOG 2026 Jun 7 early online](#))

Medication and drug exposure in pregnancy: In persons with body mass index (BMI) of 27 kg/m² or obesity before pregnancy, using semaglutide before pregnancy or before and during pregnancy (mostly the first trimester only) may be associated with increased risks of excessive gestational weight gain, gestational diabetes, excessive fetal growth, and cesarean delivery. ([Obstet Gynecol 2026 May 28 early online](#))

In sibling-controlled analysis, use of acetaminophen (paracetamol) during pregnancy may not be associated with increased risks of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in offspring. ([JAMA Intern Med 2026 Jun 29 early online](#))

Prenatal exposure to proton pump inhibitors or H₂ receptor antagonists may not be associated with an increased risk of gastrointestinal disease, including inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn disease, and ulcerative colitis, in offspring based on sibling-matched cohort analysis ([JAMA Netw Open 2026 Jun 1](#))

Neuraxial labour analgesia: Epidural analgesia during labor with singleton pregnancy is not associated with increased risk of neonatal neurological morbidity or sepsis. ([BMJ 2026 Jul 15](#))

Treatment of female infertility: Endometrial preparation with natural cycle and artificial cycle with oral estradiol and vaginal progesterone result in similar rates of clinical pregnancy in adults with regular ovulatory cycles having frozen-thawed embryo transfer for varied indications. ([Hum Reprod 2026 Jun 19 early online](#))

Umbilical cord abnormalities: Velamentous cord insertion may be associated with an increased risk of preterm delivery, fetal growth restriction, cesarean section, neonatal intensive care unit admission, respiratory distress syndrome, perinatal mortality, and postpartum hemorrhage 500 mL in singleton pregnancies. ([Front Med \[Lausanne\] 2026](#))

Vasa previa: Third trimester elective fetoscopic laser ablation may be associated with delivery at a later gestational age, reduced admission to a neonatal intensive care unit, and an increased likelihood of vaginal delivery compared to standard management in patients with singleton pregnancies complicated by type II or III vasa previa ([Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol 2026 Mar](#)).

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