

Contents

List of Contributors	xiii
1 Definition and Clinical Presentation	
<i>Isabel Stabile, J. G. Grudzinskas and T. Chard</i>	1
Spontaneous Abortion	1
Threatened Abortion	1
Inevitable Abortion	2
Missed Abortion	3
Anembryonic Pregnancy	3
Spontaneous Abortion of a Live Fetus	3
Trophoblastic Tumours	4
Septic Abortion	4
Recurrent Abortion	5
Induced Abortion	5
Ectopic Pregnancy	5
Summary	6
References	6
2 Spontaneous Abortions: Epidemiology	
<i>Eva Alberman</i>	9
Introduction	9
Problems of Definition and Ascertainment	9
Current Estimates of Early Reproductive Loss	11
The Role of Chromosomal Anomalies	12
The Role of Malformations Other Than Those Caused by Chromosomal Anomaly	13
Sex Ratio	14
Multiple Pregnancies	14
Maternal Age and Parity	14
Outcome of Other Pregnancies in Sibships with Spontaneous Abortions	16
Maternal Health	16
Maternal Smoking	17
Alcohol Consumption	17

Oral Contraceptives, Spermicides and Intrauterine Devices	17
Other Environmental Hazards	18
Conclusion	19
References	19

3 Aetiology of Pregnancy Failure

<i>J. L. Simpson</i>	21
Introduction	21
Numerical Chromosomal Abnormalities (Aneuploidy and Polyploidy)	21
Preclinical Losses	21
First Trimester	22
Second and Third Trimester	24
Pathological Findings in First Trimester Abortuses	24
Fetal Conditions	24
Maternal Conditions	30
Maternal Health	39
References	42

4 Pathology of Spontaneous Abortion

<i>H. Fox</i>	49
Introduction	49
Anatomo-pathological Classification of Material from Abortions	49
Histological Classification of Material from Abortions	51
Specific Pathological Abnormalities in Abortion	56
Infection	56
Placental Ischaemia and Inadequate Placentation	56
Immunological Factors	58
Anti-phospholipid Antibodies	58
Congenital Uterine Abnormalities	58
Conclusions	59
References	59

5 Ultrasound Diagnosis of Spontaneous Miscarriage

<i>Isabel Stabile and S. C. Campbell</i>	63
Introduction	63
Am I Pregnant?	63
Is My Pregnancy Normal?	64
When Is My Baby Due?	68
Will I Miscarry?	70
Intrauterine Haematomata	70
Double Gestational Sacs	72
Low Lying Placenta	72
Low Ratio of Amniotic Sac to Embryo	72
Uterine Abnormalities	73
Embryonic Growth Delay	73
Early Bradycardia	74

Is My Baby Normal?	74
Specific Complications of Early Pregnancy	75
Early Embryonic Demise	75
Anembryonic Pregnancy	76
Complete and Incomplete Abortion	77
Doppler Ultrasound in the Diagnosis of Pregnancy Failure	77
References	82

6 Assessment of Early Pregnancy: Measurement of Fetoplacental Hormones and Proteins

<i>J. G. Grudzinskas and T. Chard</i>	87
Diagnosis of Pregnancy	87
Normal Pregnancy	88
Control of Synthesis and Secretion	90
Early Pregnancy Failure	90
Threatened and Spontaneous Miscarriage	91
Anembryonic Pregnancy	91
Ectopic Pregnancy	92
Trophoblastic Disease	93
Prenatal Diagnosis: Chorionic Villus Sampling	93
Conclusions	94
References	95

7 The Aetiology and Management of Recurrent Miscarriage

<i>Lesley Regan</i>	99
Introduction	99
Incidence	100
The Risk of Recurrence	100
Aetiology of Recurrent Miscarriage	102
Genetic Causes	102
Anatomical Causes	103
Infective Causes	104
Chronic Maternal Disorders, Drugs and Environmental Pollutants	104
Endocrine Causes	105
Immunological Causes	106
Investigation and Management	107
Summary and Conclusions	112
References	113

8 Septic Abortion

<i>Felicity Ashworth</i>	119
Relevance of Septic Abortion to Maternal Mortality Statistics	119
Risk Factors	120
Clinical Features	121
Microbiology	122
Complications of Septic Abortion	122
Septicaemia	123

Endotoxic Shock	123
Acute Tubular Necrosis	123
Management of Septic Abortion	124
Prevention	124
Antibiotic Therapy	125
Curettage	125
Surgery	125
Management of Septic Shock	127
Conclusion	130
References	130

9 Miscarriage Following Assisted Conception

<i>A. H. Balen and J. L. Yovich</i>	133
Miscarriage in the Infertile Couple	133
Pregnancy Diagnosis	134
The Influence on Miscarriage of the Drugs used in Assisted Conception	135
Anti-oestrogens	135
Ovulation Induction with Gonadotrophins	138
Miscarriage after IVF and Related Procedures	140
Summary	144
References	144

10 Abortion Following Invasive Diagnostic Procedures in the First Trimester

<i>M. D. Griffith-Jones and R. J. Lilford</i>	149
Introduction	149
Safety	149
Evaluating Safety of Invasive Prenatal Diagnostic Tests	149
Transabdominal versus Transcervical CVS	150
CVS versus Midtrimester Amniocentesis	151
Early Amniocentesis	153
Accuracy	154
Single Gene Defects	155
Chromosomal Abnormalities	155
Cost Considerations	156
References	157

11 Diagnosis and Management of Ectopic Pregnancy

<i>Isabel Stabile</i>	159
Introduction	159
Incidence of Ectopic Pregnancy	159
Aetiology of Ectopic Pregnancy	160
Clinical Features of Ectopic Pregnancy	161
Diagnostic Tests	162
Biochemical Tests	163
Sonographic Tests	167
Combination of Ultrasound and Biochemical Tests	176

Management of Ectopic Pregnancy	177
Conclusion	179
References	179
12 Surgical Treatment of Spontaneous Abortion	
<i>M. Macnaughton</i>	183
Cervical Cerclage in the Management of Cervical Incompetence	183
Operative Procedures for Cervical Incompetence	184
Choice of Patients	185
Value of the Procedure	186
Randomised Controlled Trials	186
Management of Spontaneous Abortion	188
Dilatation and Curettage	189
Complications of Dilatation and Curettage	190
References	191
13 Endocrine Treatment in the Prevention and Management of Spontaneous Abortion	
<i>A. M. Lower and J. G. Grudzinskas</i>	193
Introduction	193
Prevention	194
Systemic Disorders	194
Reproductive System Disorders	196
Empirical Treatment	198
Timing of Treatment	198
Endocrine Treatment of Incomplete or Missed Abortion	199
Conclusion	200
References	200
14 Immunotherapy of Recurrent Spontaneous Miscarriage	
<i>W. D. Billington</i>	203
Introduction: Maternal Immunity in Normal Pregnancy	203
Rationale for Immunotherapy in Pregnancy Loss	204
Definition of Recurrent Pregnancy Loss	205
Methods of Treatment	205
Leucocyte Immunisation	206
Trophoblast Membrane Infusion	208
Seminal Plasma	209
Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG)	210
Assessment of Outcome of Treatment: Difficulties of Interpretation	210
Potential Hazards of Immunotherapy	211
Future Requirements	212
Conclusions	214
References	214
Subject Index	219