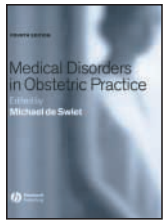


## Medical disorders in obstetric practice, 4th ed.

Michael de Swiet, editor



Malden (MA): Blackwell Science; 2002. 616 pp; US\$146.95 (cloth) ISBN 0-632-05395-X

**Rating:** \*\*\*

**Audience:** Residents in obstetrics, generalists

**Content:** For obstetrics residents and for generalists due for a review, this book is engaging and fluent enough to be read at the lake, yet meaty enough to provide a sense of familiarity and confidence for readers faced with medical problems in pregnant patients. For the internist newly or infrequently consulting in obstetrics, it provides enough information to assuage that all-too-common sense of discomfort when dealing with 2 patients, one within the other. However this is not a sufficiently exhaustive reference for perinatologists or subspecialists in obstetric medicine.

This book is a refreshingly readable and concise overview of medical problems likely to be encountered in obstetric practice, ranging from diseases of the major organ systems through infection to substance abuse and psychiatric illness. It provides an elegant review of basic physiology and pathophysiology, discusses the impact of disease on pregnancy and pregnancy on disease, and gives useful recommendations for clinical care.

**Strengths:** De Swiet and most of his co-authors write beautifully, and their clinical acumen is evident. Tables and figures are few but appropriate: for example, the list of occult causes of collapse in pregnancy is brilliant. Drug doses, routes and half-lives are consistently provided; this is particularly useful in the delivery room at 3:30 am. I used the helpful index to look up a dozen questions I have recently faced. Those relating to common problems were well addressed on the basis of evi-

dence and the authors' experience. This book feels 'just right' as a concise but useful synopsis.

**Limitations:** There are significant errors and omissions. For instance, carbamazepine is missing from the list of enzyme-inducing antiepileptic drugs affecting fetal coagulation; cesarean section is suggested based on herpes culture results at term; bromocriptine is suggested for lactation suppression; current information about teratogenic risks of trimethoprim is missing; and a urine pregnancy test is claimed to be unreliable on the basis of a reference dating back to 1967. I found no reference to glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency, a not-infrequent issue in pregnancy. The chapters on gastrointestinal and liver disease suffer from poor English, an inability to distill from the literature coherently, poorly founded recommendations, and obsolete references (e.g., in the hyperemesis section). Some minor annoyances include mislabeled references and typos.

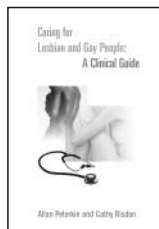
### Erica Eason

Associate Professor  
Obstetrics and Gynecology  
University of Ottawa  
Ottawa, Ont.

This book is available through your local book retailer, or through the publisher at [www.blackwellpublishing.com/book\\_default.asp](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/book_default.asp)

## Caring for lesbian and gay people: a clinical guide

Allan Peterkin and Cathy Risdon



Toronto: University of Toronto Press; 2003. 336 pp. \$85 (cloth) ISBN 0-8020-4857-9 \$40 (paper) ISBN 0-8020-8379-X

**Rating:** \*\*\*\*

**Audience:** All medical trainees and physicians

**Content:** With this clinical guide, psychiatrist Allan Peterkin and family physician Cathy Risdon have made an

outstanding contribution to the global literature on gay and lesbian health. Anchored solidly in scientific literature and well supported by references, the text is remarkably practical.

Chapters open with clear, topical overviews and are cleverly enhanced with clinical vignettes that offer concrete examples of best practice. There are sections on building rapport between physician and patient, sexual health, gay and lesbian adolescents, sexually transmitted diseases, issues surrounding HIV infection and prevention, mental health, substance use, body image and modification, relationships, and special groups within the gay and lesbian population — ethnic minorities, Aboriginals, the elderly, people with disabilities, rural residents and bisexual, transsexual and transgendered people.

**Strengths:** The chapter on professional and training issues is an excellent must-read for all leaders in medical education in Canada. Helpful strategies for curriculum development at undergraduate and postgraduate levels are provided. This chapter describes and amply illustrates how to identify and reduce homophobia in professional settings, develop a healthy and mature practice environment and promote the health and well-being of gay and lesbian physicians.

It would be an advantage to our communities if this book were a mandatory read for medical trainees and adopted as a staple resource by Canadian physicians in their daily clinical work.

**Limitations:** None noted.

### Derek Puddester

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Faculty Wellness Program  
Associate Professor  
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University of Ottawa  
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This book is available through your local book retailer, or through the publisher at [www.utppublishing.com/detail.asp?TitleID=2588](http://www.utppublishing.com/detail.asp?TitleID=2588)

Items reviewed are rated on a 4 star scale (4 = excellent)