Obstetric Anaesthesia Courses

I am a final year SpR with an interest in obstetric anaesthesia. In November I attended a course in London entitled ‘Medical Complications in Pregnancy’. I came across this course purely by chance on the internet and do not recall seeing it advertised in any anaesthesia resources. Since being on the course I thought it would be a good idea to spread the word, as it was excellent.

With study leave days and budget very limited (£920 + 10 days per annum for trainees in the South Yorkshire locality of the Yorkshire and Humber Deanery) it is difficult to cover the generic courses as well as ‘special interest’ courses without spending your own money and annual leave. I thought I would cover here what I think are useful courses and meetings in the UK for trainees and consultants interested in obstetric anaesthesia.

**MOSES - Multidisciplinary Obstetric Simulated Emergency Scenarios**

Simulation course aimed at Obstetricians, anaesthetists and midwives to promote multidisciplinary teamwork and effective communication skills. Covers emergency scenarios in theatre, labour ward and HDU. Simulation is an excellent way to learn although it’s not everyone’s ideal environment. Regional variations of obstetric simulation courses include: Crisis on Obstetric Anaesthesia, Obstetric Anaesthesia Training in the Simulator for SpRs (OATS), Obstetric Anaesthetic Crisis Simulation (OACS). See local simulation centre for details.

**MOET - Managing Obstetric Emergencies and Trauma Course**

Lectures, skill workshops and resuscitation simulations. For obstetricians and anaesthetists (post FRCA). This course is very useful and hands on. Anaesthetic trainees are expected to take part in all of the skill stations, not just the airway ones, e.g. forceps and ventouse delivery, vaginal breech delivery, uterine inversion. A large amount of topics are covered which are useful for all aspects of neonatal and obstetric care. Manual sent to participants for pre-course reading. Organised by the Advanced Life Support Group, £610, 3 days. See www.alsg.org for details.

**ALSO - Advance Life Support in Obstetrics**

Aimed at junior obstetricians, midwives, GPs and other healthcare professionals involved in the care of obstetric patients. A structured, evidence-based course aimed at multidisciplinary teams. It is a manikin-based course with a syllabus and lectures. As well as covering labour ward emergencies, it also covers topics such as pre-natal assessment, strategies to help parents cope with a birth crisis and malpractice issues. The course originated in the USA. Pre-course manual reading required. £390, 2 days, held at various locations around the UK. See www.also.org.uk for details.

**Obstetric Anaesthesia**

OAA annual scientific meeting. Comprises lectures, forums, free papers, poster presentations, and exhibitions. The programme is always excellent, varied and up-to-date with national and international speakers. The location varies each year around the UK. Consultant £350 (£380 non OAA member), trainee £250 (£270 non OAA member), 2 days. See www.oaameetings.info for details; next meeting 20 – 21 May 2010. Additional option for 19 May, delegates can attend workshops on difficult airway management in obstetrics/ultrasound guided TAP blocks/ultrasound guided central neuraxial blockade. Tourist trails are also available on 19 May, organised for delegates and/or non-anaesthetic partners.

**Refresher Course on Obstetric Anaesthesia**

This annual course, which is run by the OAA, is aimed at those anaesthetists who only cover obstetrics when on-call. It is a one-day course and is traditionally held in October at the RCOG. The course covers all relevant aspects of obstetrics and obstetric anaesthesia. The lectures are given by anaesthetists and obstetricians. See www.oaameetings.info for details; next course 13 October 2010.
Medical Complications in Pregnancy

Organised on an annual basis (2009, 15th year) by Consultant Obstetric Physicians through the Symposium Office, Imperial College, London, in association with the Royal College of Physicians. It is for obstetricians, physicians, obstetric anaesthetists and GPs. Out of the 253 delegates who attended in 2009, anaesthesia was represented by 12 consultants and 7 trainees. In one London deanery senior trainees intending to pursue a career in obstetric anaesthesia are actively encouraged to attend this course. The course covers just about everything you will ever want or need to know about medicine for the parturient. If like me, you’ve not done medicine since you were a JHO twelve years ago, you will find this course most informative. With national and international speakers it covers a vast array of topics within medical subspecialties, which are useful in our practice to manage high-risk patients. Held at the Royal College of Physicians, London. (It is in a very impressive building at the corner of Regent’s Park and meets my approval with Molton Brown products in the toilets akin with our very own AAGBI toilets!) £515, 3 days. See www.symposia.org.uk for details; next course 3 - 5 November 2010.

Three-day Course on Obstetric Anaesthesia and Analgesia

This is an annual course organised by the OAA aimed at trainees and consultants. This is the only course of its kind outside North America. Greater than 40% of the delegates are from overseas, with more than 25 countries being represented at the last course. Five free places are offered every year to anaesthetists from countries that would have difficulty attending the meeting due to financial constraints. It is definitely worth attending both by the anaesthetist covering labour ward on a regular basis and by trainees intending to pursue obstetric anaesthesia in their consultant posts. National and international speakers cover ‘generic’ topics as well as news and updates on up and coming developments in obstetric anaesthesia. Relevant paediatric, obstetric, obstetric medicine and medico-legal lectures are given by experts in these fields. See www.oaameetings.info for details; next course 8 - 10 November 2010.

Cases and Controversies in Obstetric Anaesthesia

Lectures, clinical cases, debates. Up-to-date topics covered by national and international speakers. A refreshingly short course. Organised on an annual basis by the Obstetric Anaesthetists’ Association (OAA), held at Church House Conference Centre, London. £180 (OAA members), £200 (non OAA members), 1 day. See www.oaameetings.info for details; next meeting 2 March 2011.

I would like to thank Dr Geraldine O’Sullivan, Consultant Obstetric Anaesthetist for kindly reviewing this article. I greatly value her opinion.

Dr Gill Hilton MRCS FCAARC SI FRC A
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20th National Acute Pain Symposium

Thurs 16th & Fri 17th September, 2010
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Chester

Just some of the Topics

Extended release epidural morphine
Tapentadol - a new analgesic
Procedure specific pain treatment modalities
Varicella vaccine in the management of varicella related pain
Local anaesthetic toxicity
Funding and the modern acute pain service
Acute Pain & its Modulation : New research Directions
Complimentary & Alternative Medicines in Acute Pain
Spinal opioids

For details & bookings contact:
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Registration Fees
Consultant/NCCG £ 345
SpR/SHO £ 275
Nurses £ 185

Poster exhibition
This meeting is essential for doctors & nurses with an interest in Acute Pain Management