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**Introduction:**
In any standard five to ten-week long rotation in obstetrics and gynaecology experienced by a medical student or junior doctor, it is unlikely that they will encounter every single presenting complaint pertinent to the specialty. Nor will they always have the opportunity to reflect on the scenario and process important learning points as they occur in real-time. For many medical students who find themselves time-poor on such rotations, a good review book can aid their understanding of the topic at hand. With a wide range of textbooks on obstetrics and gynaecology, the selection of high-yield resources can be difficult. Clinical Scenarios in Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women’s Health by De Costa, Robson and Lim is a textbook that describes 50 cases commonly encountered in obstetrics, gynaecology, and women’s health in general practice. The textbook is divided into four parts, with guidelines for history-taking and physical examination in part one. The case-scenarios are divided into three separate sections representing the breadth of obstetrics, gynaecology, and women’s health.

**Summary of argument:**
A good review textbook is concise, contains already familiar content, and serves as a learning tool for preparation for exams or the wards. These are features of the pocket-sized case-based textbook Clinical Scenarios in Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women’s Health by De Costa, Robson and Lim.

**About the authors:**
The textbook combines years of experience in obstetrics and gynaecology from Professor Caroline de Costa, Professor Stephen Robson, and clinical Associate Professor Boon Lim, all of whom share an interest in teaching. As an academic currently staffed at James Cook University, Professor de Costa teaches medical students and supervises Honours and PhD research. Professor Stephen Robson has an area of interest in assisted reproduction. Associate Professor Boon Lim is an editor for the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

**Summary of contents:**
A diverse range of scenarios are represented in this textbook with a particular focus on clinical management. This resource also provides perspective on social determinants that impact women’s health, which need to be considered by health professionals for the provision of holistic patient-centred care.

**Strengths:**
Through the case scenarios, the textbook illustrates and simplifies concepts in obstetrics and gynaecology for time-poor medical students. Each case covers the patient’s presenting complaint, pertinent history, physical examination, and management in a stepwise fashion. The textbook further broadens the reader’s understanding of obstetrics and gynaecology by building upon the case scenarios, considering potential complications, and proposing subsequent management. Through this method, the reader is able to gain understanding of the complications commonly associated with certain conditions in women’s health and how to manage them accordingly. In addition, cases are interspersed with references to literature and guidelines from the time of the textbook’s publication.

Medical students will most likely benefit from reading this textbook for a number of reasons. The style in which the textbook is written helps to develop clinical reasoning. The textbook frames each case scenario with a vignette on the patient’s presentation, followed by a series of questions and potential solutions for the reader to work through. This style of questioning also encourages the reader to develop a framework to facilitate critical-thinking and decision-
making, drawn from the experience of the authors. The cases also include questions commonly asked by patients in those scenarios and explains how to approach giving advice. The closing of each case scenario has a subsection called ‘clinical pearls’, which are important revision points for the reader, and reminders to ‘always check the whole woman’.

Conclusion:
This pocket-sized textbook is suitable for any student whose learning style is compatible with case-based evaluation. It is a valuable resource for any medical student or junior doctor on a rotation in obstetrics and gynaecology.

References:
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