

Iatrogenic Multiple Pregnancy: Clinical Implications

Edited by Isaac Blickstein and Louis G Keith

Parthenon Publishing Group Limited, Carnforth, UK 330p

Most parents are stunned when informed for the first time that they have a multiple pregnancy. Whilst most are very happy at this discovery, few couples have a full insight into the implications that this diagnosis may have for the outcomes of their pregnancy as well as the implications that it may have for their family. Few appreciate the significantly higher risks of fetal loss, fetal abnormality, or of the implications of the much higher risks of prematurity. Even when healthy babies are born, few appreciate the difficulties of managing multiple babies simultaneously. There are significant economic, emotional and wellbeing implications, as well as issues of development and individuality that must be addressed. The past two decades have witnessed a significant increase in the incidence of multiple pregnancies predominantly due to the increased use of assisted

reproductive technologies. This rise is potentially preventable and is the consequence of attempts at increasing the chances of success in the treatment of infertile couples. This change has enormous consequences for the babies, mothers and families concerned. Therefore it is refreshing to see a book aimed specifically at examining the consequences of iatrogenic multiple pregnancy.

This book gives a broad coverage of the management of all the major complications of multiple pregnancy, in particular, those that are most frequently encountered with ART. There are practical chapters on how to avoid multiple pregnancy as a result of ovulation induction and IVF preterm delivery and management of fetal malformations. There are also discussions regarding the obstetric and emotional consequences of fetal reduction. As part of the well balanced approach this book has, there

are discussions regarding the long term health and psychological outcomes and the economic consequences of having multiple pregnancies in addition to the medical complications. In addition to the discussions, the photographic images in front of each chapter depicting twin pregnancies are stunning.

Overall this book is up to date and gives a comprehensive coverage of the major complications that occur as a consequence of iatrogenic multiple pregnancy. By focusing on this group of multiple pregnancies, it would be a useful read for those who use assisted reproductive technologies to treat infertility.

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2 June 2001 Catania, Sicily (Italy)

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