

Discussion

Dr Zain . I have recently read of a survey conducted in Wales, In this study two groups of hospitals were compared in the management of their deliveries and in the outcome. One group used the more traditional criteria of assessing maternal progress and fetal distress, the other was using the more sophisticated techniques for continuous fetal monitoring. In summary it was found that there was no significant difference in the course and out come of the deliveries. In view of this I wonder if you would like to comment on whether the vast expenditure on the equipment in the light of this, is justified ?

Dr Hamid. Thank you. I think that one has to be careful about such a study, and although I am not very familiar with this paper, it would be important to know how the delivery was managed. It is now the policy in many units to conduct a policy of the Active Management of Labour. If this is to be carried out then it is important to have very careful monitoring of the pregnancy that may well have been induced and be progressing under the influence of drugs such as syntocinon. This policy initiated for the well being of the infant needs constant monitoring to insure the best, possible management.

Dr Kalaida Perhaps I might comment on this paper, because I was present at the meeting when this paper was published. It was emphasised that there was another factor here that was important in these results. It was stressed that the survey was not strictly comparable because the population of the two groups was from the same area, with the same type of problems. Another area, with different factors effecting the population might have made a difference.

Professor Hadad. Well if there are no more comments perhaps I could just say that we shall continue to use the more modern techniques in unit. It is important that we obtain more information and that we harness scientific innovations to Obstetrics.