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Isabel Stabile,
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Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology

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Preface

The aim of this book is to provide a straightforward summary of the knowledge required for examinations in specialist Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Part Two of the examination for Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists would be a good example. The volume is intended as a companion to the highly successful *Basic Sciences for Obstetrics and Gynaecology* which covers the knowledge required for preliminary examinations.

Increasingly, examinations of all types are based on multiple choice questions (MCQ) or structured answer questions (SAQ). No apology is made for the fact that the present book addresses the sort of “fact” which lends itself to testing by this approach. Thus, there is little discussion of speculative or contentious areas, no account of present or future research, and no references. Numerous excellent books are available which cover these topics in a much fuller and more discursive manner, and the present volume does not seek to emulate them.

Even the most apparently immutable facts are subject to periodic revision. We have attempted to present the “state-of-the-art”: most of the material is generally if not universally accepted. A particular problem arises with numerical information. Frequencies of diseases, frequency of clinical findings, efficiency of diagnostic tests and therapies, have almost always been the subject of numerous different studies, each of which yields somewhat different results. Thus, with a few exceptions, most of the numbers given in this book have a “correction interval” of plus or minus 50%. For example, if a figure of 30% is given as the five-year survival of a given stage of a particular tumour, it is likely that any figure between 20% and 40% would be acceptable to examiners as a correct answer.

For most purposes we have assumed that the reader has a background knowledge equivalent to that of a junior to middle-grade trainee in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. No book of this type can possibly be encyclopaedic. We do not claim to identify every conceivable fact which might be asked in an examination nor do we provide detailed “recipes” for practical procedures. However, we believe that we have covered sufficient ground to enable someone of moderate retentive memory to obtain a passmark.

Finally, we hope that the book will also provide an ongoing and useful source of quick factual reference for all those involved in clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

London, January 2000

Isabel Stabile
Tim Chard
Gedis Grudzinskas

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