



Obstetrical & Gynaecological
Society of Malaysia

The OGSM newsletter

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THE OGSM COUNCIL, SUBCOMMITTEES & STATE COORDINATORS

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The President's Message

In the previous OGSM newsletter, I had mentioned that I would be meeting representatives of MPS to discuss our rapidly rising Medical Insurance premiums. I met Dr John Hickey and Dr Tim Hegan (CEO and International Affairs Officer, respectively) on 25th October 2004, in KL. They informed me that the financial costs of claims against Obstetricians have increased dramatically since 2002, and this has been reflected in the subscription rates. Currently, Obstetrical cases account for the majority of the top 10 litigation cases by claims value, in Malaysia.

Sometimes I feel we are the victims of our own success. Current WHO statistics show 500,000 maternal deaths each year. It is thus ironic that the litigation rate in Obstetrics has an inverse ratio to the Maternal Mortality rate. An increasingly sophisticated society has almost zero tolerance for any form of an adverse event especially if there has been an underlying dissatisfaction in the patient doctor relationship.

We must therefore devise a better strategy to handle these heightened expectations. Sound clinical judgment, superb communicative skills, the involvement of patients and kin in making major management decisions, accurate and legible records, will all help. Nevertheless, issues also need to be addressed from a political, legislative and judicial angle. In some countries, not only does the Government cap court awards, it even undertakes to pay for the awards above a certain cut off value. This means Medical Defence organisations will not have to provide

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OGSM's new public health education campaign this term is themed "Endometriosis-Dont live with it" with the support of Abbot Laboratories. The programme was formally launched by YB Dato' Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, Minister for Women, Family Affairs and Community Development at the recent "Women:Health and Lifestyle" Symposium.

We have been given a grant of US\$17,000 by Give2Asia, in support of the Women Wellness Programme. This was on the recommendation of Johnson and Johnson Asia Pacific Contributions Fund. Council is working out a programme to utilise this grant which has a tenure of one year. The funds are supposed to be used for posters, patient leaflets, breast self examination cards, VCDs, roadshows, public forums, PR campaigns and mammogram subsidies. We will inform you in due course and seek your active participation to make this programme a success.

The College of Surgeons of Malaysia, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (with collaborating Societies including OGSM and College of O&G, Academy of Medicine) has now completed A Guideline on Fees for Year 2005. I wish to thank Dr Hj Abdul Onny Yahya who had put in a tremendous effort in chairing the Fees Schedule Subcommittee of OGSM. I thank all OGSM members who had contributed valuable feedback to the above subcommittee.

The 15th OGSM Congress in Penang (2-5th June 2005) promises to be a lively affair. Don't forget to make your plans early as it is during the school holidays.

I wish all our Chinese members a belated Gong Xi Fa Chai in this Year of the Rooster. We must egg ourselves on to greater success in all fields of endeavour, so that at the end of the year we will have something worth crowing about.

To my Muslim colleagues "Salam Ma'al Hijrah. Semoga tahun Hijriah 1426 ini akan membawa barakah yang berganda, segala cabaran dapat ditempohi dengan penoh ketabahan dan ketaqwaan, dan kita semua sentiasa mendapat keredhaan Ilahi."

Dr Mohd Hafetz Ahmad
President

..... cont' on 'The President's Message'

for huge fund provisions in anticipation of exorbitant court awards. We need to convince the powers that be, the soaring costs of medical indemnity would eventually make the profession unattractive in future, and that would not be in the public interest.

I mentioned to Dr John Hickey that perhaps we should take a cue from our friends in the airline industry and put an insurance surcharge for obstetric cases, adjusted to the value of insurance premiums imposed. It might well be a double-edged sword but it is a point worth debating on. Do think about it, and perhaps we could discuss it at the forum on medical indemnity as part of our deliberations at the 15th OGSM Congress in Penang.

It is with deep regret and sadness that I wish to inform you that Professor D.K. Sen had passed away on 27-11-04 in Germany. Teacher, mentor, motivator, confidant and friend. He was all these and much more, to so many of us in the O&G fraternity. He had a distinguished career at the Dept of O&G, University Hospital Kuala Lumpur. I am sure you will join me in expressing our deepest condolences to his widow Joya and children Kamala and Ramen (address: Goetensburg 14, 21039 Escheburg, Germany).

News of the tsunami tragedy has now receded from media front pages. Yet we know, the recovery of the hard hit areas and its survivors requires a marathon effort, not a sprint. I wish to inform you that OGSM, via the I.S. Puvan OBGYN Foundation, had donated RM10,000 to Mercy Malaysia, and US\$2000 each to Aceh via the O&G Society of Indonesia, and to Sri Lanka via the Sri Lanka College of O&G.



The last quarter saw all Malaysians celebrate their cultural activities from DeepaRaya to Christmas and Chinese New Year; and Council takes this opportunity to wish all members Greetings of the Seasons.

The 26th December 2004 will remain a Boxing Day to remember for the first time a tsunami hit our shores. The OGSM as Dr Hafetz has mentioned has actively contributed towards tsunami relief. Our sympathies goes out to all those affected by the tragedy.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) has also approached Council for help in the form of equipments to support their medical camp which is located at Bandar Aceh for 1 year. Members who are interested in participating through MRCS may email the society. It would be a 2 weeks stint with flight and lodging borne by MRCS.

MRCS has also requested for contributions in the form of equipment such as Orthoscope sets, Sphingomanometer sets, Stethoscopes, Glucometers, Glucometer strips and Thermometer (digital). Should members have extra equipment and wish to contribute, kindly forward the equipment to MRCS National Headquarters at JKR 32, Jalan Nipah, Off Jalan Ampang, 55000 Kuala Lumpur (Tel: 03-4257 8122).

The Community Health projects sponsored by Johnson & Johnson are ongoing. The society carried out 4 projects in different locality, namely, Bagan Terap, Selangor (29 August 2004), Sungai Wangi, Perak (2 October 2004), Sekinchan, Selangor (16 December 2004) and the Malaysian Association for the Blind, Brickfields (10 January 2005). Council would like to thank all those who had helped in one way or another. Council would also like to invite members to form a pool of volunteers for future projects by informing the OGSM secretariat.

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) division of the Ministry of Health has put forward their views on the use of Misoprostol in Pregnancy. The summary of which is included in this Newsletter. The document was discussed at Council meeting and Council members differed with the recommendations. Dr Hafetz wrote to Dr S Sivalal, Timbalan Pengarah, Bahagian Perkembangan Perubatan and Chairman of HTA that the appropriate recommendation should read as follows:

“There should be particular care with the use of misoprostol in obstetrics. There are special concerns as regards use with previous scar. Dosing and regimens should follow available evidence. There should be adequate monitoring. The potential risk and benefits should be weighed and the appropriate counselling done with the patient.”

Instead of HTA's recommendation which reads:

“Based on the current evidence to date, there is sufficient safety and legal concerns not to recommend misoprostol for cervical priming, termination of pregnancy, induction of labour or postpartum hemorrhage.”

However, Dr S Sivalal replied that the document has been thoroughly evaluated and regrets that no further changes could be made. (Members keen to obtain a copy of his detailed reply would have to write in to the society).

The next OGSM congress is in Hotel Equatorial, Penang and Dr Ravi Chandran and his team is looking forward to enlightening your knowledge as well as ensuring adequate rest & recreational activities. Members are encouraged to register early and the date line for abstract submission is 30th April 2005.

The ACOG 2005 will be held from 1-5 October 2005 in Seoul, Korea. Deadline of abstract submission for Oral/Poster presentation is 30th April 2005. Online abstract submission through the congress website (www.aocog2005.org) is highly recommended. Members are also reminded of the Shan S Ratnam - Young Gynecologist Awards. The award is open to those below the age 40 at the time of conferment. The awardee is expected to present a scientific paper at the congress. Please forward your CV and full text of your presentation to the OGSM secretariat not later than 15th April 2005, if you are interested. The ACOG Congress announcement is also available from the OGSM secretariat upon request.

I do hope that this Newsletter ensures complete coverage of activities as well as is entertaining enough.

Dr K K Iswaran
Hon Secretary



XVIII FIGO World Congress

Kuala Lumpur

5-10 November 2006



Preparations for FIGO 2006 are picking up pace. Members of the FIGO Congress Organising Committee from London were in KL in June and September 2004 to hold discussions with the PCO and the relevant parties involved with FIGO 2006.

Venue

The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) has been chosen as the venue for FIGO 2006 due to its easy accessibility in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. The centre offers state-of-the-art wireless LAN, telecommunications and digital audio-visual facilities allowing interactive scientific sessions. The centre is expected to be ready by June 2005 and the signing ceremony to confirm the venue will be held on March 10, 2005.

1st Announcement

The 1st Announcement is ready and already in circulation. It is being printed in English, French, Spanish and Chinese. The 2nd announcement is expected to be sometime in October 2005. The Congress website www.figo2006kl.com is also ready.

Exhibition

The PCO has also been approaching the industries to garner for sponsorship which aims to raise USD2.2 million to support FIGO's activities. It is also hoped that the sponsors will help to attract 8,000 to 10,000 participants to the Congress. A separate exhibition brochure has also been printed detailing the various types of sponsorship available.

Social Events

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony is being planned to be held at the KLCC on Sunday, 5th November 2006 at 7.00pm. It was proposed that the Prime Minister be invited to officiate the ceremony and efforts are being made to have an appointment with the PM.

Cultural Evening (Monday, 6 November 2006)

Several programmes and venues had been proposed, namely

- Music session by the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cultural Palace
- Jazz session by a local jazz group at KLCC
- Comedy drama by top local comedians at Istana Budaya

FIGO Evening for All (Tuesday, 7 November 2006)

The Lord Mayor of Kuala Lumpur will host a show and dinner at the Dataran Merdeka.

An Evening at your Leisure (Wednesday, 8 November 2006)
Explore the sights and sounds of Kuala Lumpur.

FIGO Gala Banquet (Thursday, 9 November 2006)

To be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, the FIGO Gala Banquet is a just finale to the FIGO 2006 Congress.

Closing Ceremony (Friday, 10 November 2006)

The event will signal the end of FIGO 2006 and to introduce the next country to host the FIGO 2009 Congress.

The role of the Local Organising Committee (LOC)

For this year the FIGO has changed some of the structure of the way the organising is done and the entire project is more or less the responsibility of the PCO. The PCO will source all funding, market and organise the entire event. The scientific content is solely organised by FIGO with some input from the LOC. In this way the PCO will bear the entire risks as well as stand to gain the profit that it raises. However there is a formula whereby FIGO will guarantee a certain sum as clean profit and OGSM will receive a small portion. In this way the shift of the responsibility is now squarely on the PCO. The LOC however has an advisory and consultancy role to the PCO and works closely. The LOC acts as a 'shadow committee' to the PCO committee. The LOC's main input is on the social programme and liaison with the relevant government bodies.

Hence, if some of the members of the LOC feel that there is nothing much going on, it is because a lot is done now by the PCO. At regular intervals a briefing is held to update the LOC on the progress. The committee still welcomes suggestions, ideas and feedback from members and they can be channeled to the OGSM secretariat.

Dr Gunasegaran P T Rajan

Secretary

FIGO 2006 Local Organising Committee

OGSM / Johnson & Johnson Community Health Clinic



A Free Pap Smear & Health Screening Clinic was held in Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Wangi, Air Tawar, Perak on 02.10.2004. This event was mainly organized by the OGSM, MIC (Lumut Branch) and Johnson & Johnson Sdn Bhd. The event was also made possible by the contribution from the staff of Hospital Seri Manjung under the leadership of their resident O&G Specialist, Dr V Jayabalan, the staff of Jabatan Kesihatan Daerah Manjung and the staff of the O&G Department of Hospital Ipoh.

The clinic was officiated by YB Ramachandran (ADUN for Pasir Panjang). The clinic started out with a health talk by Dr Japaraj Robert Peter, O&G Consultant from Hospital Ipoh. In his talk, he stressed on the importance of preventing illnesses and not waiting for symptoms before doing something about their health. He also stressed on the importance of doing regular pap smears and self breast examination. After the health talk, a clinic session was held where a few services were offered for free:-

- i. Pap Smear Screening
- ii. Breast Examination
- iii. BP Taking
- iv. BMI Measurement
- v. Diabetes Test

A total of 250 people attended the event. Around 200 women had a pap smear done. Most of them had come from the surrounding villages and estates. Most of them had never had a pap smear done before.

The clinic was run until 2.00 pm. on that day. After the clinic session some of the volunteers got together and had an outing to Swiss Garden Resort near Lumut. All in all, the event was a huge success, so much so that YB Ramachandran requested the OGSM to organize more of such events in his constituency.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who had contributed greatly to make this campaign a success.

Dr. Japaraj Robert Peter

O&G Consultant

Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology,

Hospital Ipoh



Update on Fees Schedule



The "Guideline on Fees - Year 2005" is ready and has been presented to the MMA-HIC committee on 10.01.05. The MMA HIC Committee will decide on it at their next meeting on 15.02.05.

It is to be emphasised that this "Guideline on Fees - 2005" is the property of the combined Colleges/Societies/Academy of Medicine (AM) and NOT of the MMA and that any changes or modifications can only be made with the consent and approval of the said owner.

The Colleges/Societies/AM have decided to proceed and adopt this new fee schedule irrespective of whether the MMA committee accepts it or not.

Dr Abdul Onny Bin Yahya
Chairman
Fee Schedule Subcommittee

GYNAECOLOGY

CODE	PROCEDURE	FEES CODE	FEES
LEVEL 9 OPERATIONS			
OG9101	Pelvis: Radical hysterectomy and lymphadenectomy (Wertheim's)	OG 9A	RM 5000
OG9102	Pelvis: Total exenteration of pelvis	OG 9B	RM 6000
		OG 9C	RM 7000
LEVEL 8 OPERATIONS			
OG8101	Pelvis: Anterior exenteration of pelvis	OG 8A	RM 4000
OG8102	Pelvis: Posterior exenteration of pelvis	OG 8B	RM 4500
OG8601	Vulva: Radical vulvectomy (including block dissection)	OG 8C	RM 4900
LEVEL 7 OPERATION			
OG7801	Laparoscopy: complex (with major procedures eg. hysterectomy etc)	OG 7A	RM 3000
OG7701	Urol: Repair of rectovaginal fistula	OG 7B	RM 3500
OG7702	Urol: Repair of ureterovaginal fistula	OG 7C	RM 3900
LEVEL 6 OPERATIONS			
OG6801	Laparoscopy: intermediate (with minor procedures e.g. adhesiolysis)	OG 6A	RM 2000
OG6401	Ovary: Ovarian malignancy, hysterectomy for	OG 6B	RM 2500
OG6101	Pelvis: Block dissection of pelvic lymph nodes	OG 6C	RM 2900
OG6701	Urol: Combined abdom & vaginal operations to support bladder outlet		
OG6702	Urol: Vesicovaginal fistula repair		
OG6201	Uterus: Hysterectomy and removal of uterine adnexa		

- OG6202 Uterus: Subtotal abdominal hysterectomy
 OG6203 Uterus: Total abdominal hysterectomy
 OG6204 Uterus: Vaginal hysterectomy (including laparoscopically assisted)
 OG6501 Vagina: Reconstruction of vagina

LEVEL 5 OPERATIONS

- | | | | |
|--------|--|-------|---------|
| OG5401 | Ovary: Bilateral oophorectomy and salpingectomy (in isolation) | OG 5A | RM 1500 |
| OG5402 | Ovary: Ovarian cystectomy (in isolation) | OG 5B | RM 1700 |
| OG5403 | Ovary: Unilateral oophorectomy and salpingectomy (in isolation) | OG 5C | RM 1900 |
| OG5701 | Urol: Repair of urethrovaginal fistula | | |
| OG5702 | Urol: Retropubic suspension of neck of bladder | | |
| OG5703 | Urol: Suprapubic sling operation | | |
| OG5704 | Urol: Vaginal operations to support outlet of female bladder | | |
| OG5201 | Uterus: Hysteroscopy/Therapeutic endoscopic operation on the uterus | | |
| OG5202 | Uterus: Myomectomy | | |
| OG5203 | Uterus: Vaginal hysterectomy + anterior (+/- posterior) colporrhaphy | | |
| OG5501 | Vagina: Anterior +/- posterior colporrhaphy | | |
| OG5502 | Vagina: Anterior +/- posterior colporrhaphy and amputation of cervix | | |
| OG5503 | Vagina: Enterocele repair (in isolation) +/- posterior colporrhaphy | | |

LEVEL 4 OPERATIONS

- | | | | |
|--------|--|-------|---------|
| OG4301 | Fallopian Tube: Division / ligation | OG 4A | RM 1000 |
| OG4302 | Fallopian tube: Products of conception, Removal of | OG 4B | RM 1300 |
| OG4701 | Infertility: Ovum pick up | OG 4C | RM 1400 |
| OG4801 | Laparoscopy: Diagnostic (with / without hydrotubation) | | |
| OG4201 | Uterus: Cervix uteri, cone biopsy of (including laser) | | |
| OG4202 | Uterus: Cervix uteri, amputation of | | |
| OG4203 | Uterus: Colposcopy (with procedure e.g. LEEP / cone etc.) | | |
| OG4204 | Uterus: Delivered uterus, curettage of | | |
| OG4205 | Uterus: Hysteroscopy +/- D&C, biopsy including polypectomy | | |
| OG4206 | Uterus: Inverted uterus, repositioning of | | |
| OG4207 | Uterus: Lesion of cervix uteri, laser destruction of | | |
| OG4208 | Uterus: Vento-suspension of uterus (open/laparoscopic) | | |
| OG4501 | Vagina: Other obliteration of vagina | | |
| OG4502 | Vagina: Posterior colporrhaphy | | |

LEVEL 3 OPERATIONS

- | | | | |
|--------|--|-------|--------|
| OG3701 | Infertility: Embryo Transfer Intra- Uterine | OG 3A | RM 600 |
| OG3201 | Uterus: Cervical Circlage | OG 3B | RM 800 |
| OG3501 | Vagina: Lesion of vagina (e.g. warts and cysts), excision of | OG 3C | RM 900 |
| OG3502 | Vagina: Septum of vagina, excision of | | |
| OG3601 | Vulva: Bartholin gland, excision of | | |
| OG3602 | Vulva: Bartholin gland, marsupialisation of | | |
| OG3603 | Vulva: Excess labial tissue, excision of | | |
| OG3604 | Vulva: Lesion of vulva, excision of | | |

LEVEL 2 OPERATIONS

OG2701	Diagnostic: Amniocentesis	OG 2A	RM 450
OG2201	Uterus: Colposcopy (with/without biopsy)	OG 2B	RM 500
OG2202	Uterus: Dilatation of cervix uteri and curettage of uterus	OG 2C	RM 550
OG2203	Uterus: Endometrial biopsy or aspiration		
OG2204	Uterus: Lesion of cervix, cauterisation of		
OG2601	Vulva: Incision of introitus of vagina		

LEVEL 1 OPERATIONS

OG1701	Contraception: IUCD, Introduction of	OG 1A	RM 300
OG1702	Contraception: IUCD, Removal under GA	OG 1B	RM 350
OG1703	Contraception: Placement / Insertion of other contraceptive device	OG 1C	RM 400
OG1704	Diagnostic: Amniotomy		
OG1705	Diagnostic: Gynaecological examination under GA		
OG1706	Infertility: Intra Uterine Insemination		
OG1707	Urol: Urethral caruncle, excision/diathermy of		
OG1201	Uterus: Cervix uteri, punch biopsy of		
OG1601	Vulva: Other minor procedures on the female perineum		

OBSTETRICS & MISCELLANEOUS

CODE	PROCEDURE		FEES
OG 901	Obstetrics: Normal delivery (+ episiotomy and repair of lacerations)	RM 800 -	RM 1000
OG 902	Obstetrics: Abnormal delivery (forceps, vacuum, breech, multiple etc)	RM 1000-	RM 1500
OG 903	Obstetrics: Caesarean Section - no complication	RM 1500-	RM 2500
OG 904	Obstetrics: Caesarean Section - with complication	RM 2500-	RM 3500
OG 905	Obstetrics: Caesarean Hysterectomy	RM 3500-	RM 6000

Antenatal Ultrasound:

OG 906	a. Level 1 Scan (Foetal viability, growth parameters etc.)		RM 60
OG 907	b. Level 2 Scan (Detailed scan eg. Fetal abnormalities etc)		RM 115
OG 908	c. Level 3 Scan (Advanced proc.eg. Doppler, 3D etc)		RM 200
OG 909	Diagnostic: Ultrasound scan of the pelvis (Gynaecology)		RM 115
OG 910	Diagnostic: Pap Smear		RM 75

GYNAE CODE

Pelvis	1	Contraception	7
Uterus	2	Diagnostic	7
Fallopian	3	Infertility	7
Ovary	4	Urology	7
Vagina	5	Laparos	8
Vulva	6		

MOH Health Technology Assessment on Misoprostol in Pregnancy

(Full text available on www.moh.gov.my)

INTRODUCTION

In Malaysia, the commonly used prostaglandins are Gemeprost (Cervagem®) and Dinoprostone (Prostin®). Although effective and safe, they are expensive and require special storage (Song J 2000). The search for an effective, easily stored, and affordable cervical ripening and uterotonic agent has led to the use of misoprostol.

Misoprostol has been approved (licensed) to be taken orally for the prevention and treatment of gastric ulcers associated with the use of non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs. This drug is registered by the Drug Control Authority of Malaysia for the same indication. Misoprostol has not been approved for any other indications. Use under these circumstances would be considered off label. Unlike the off label use of other drugs, the use of misoprostol for labor induction has sparked considerable controversy.

POLICY QUESTION

The Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Malaysia requested a health technology assessment be carried out on the use of "Misoprostol in Pregnancy". The reason for such a request is recently there has been wide interest by the media on the alleged misuse and the alleged dangers of misoprostol.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This report is meant for policy makers to consider allowing the use of misoprostol on pregnant mothers.

OBJECTIVES

To determine safety, effectiveness, cost effectiveness and legal aspects of misoprostol for various uses in the first, second and third trimester for cervical ripening and induction of labour as well as the management of post partum hemorrhage.

RESULTS

MISOPROSTOL IN THE FIRST TRIMESTER

Effectiveness

The evidence suggests that in the first trimester, misoprostol is an effective cervical priming agent prior to surgical abortion. It is as effective as gemeprost when used for this purpose. It is also effective in evacuating the uterus in missed abortions. There is limited evidence to support its use in incomplete abortions and as an abortifacient.

Safety

There are studies that found an association between the use of misoprostol for attempted abortion and subsequent Mobius syndrome in live born infants. However there is a need for proper large controlled trials

to confirm whether this is a strong association of correlation or not.

MISOPROSTOL IN THE SECOND TRIMESTER

Effectiveness

For second trimester abortions, there is insufficient evidence for effectiveness of misoprostol as a cervical priming agent. However, there is sufficient evidence for its effectiveness for termination of pregnancy and it is also cost effective.

MISOPROSTOL FOR CERVICAL RIPENING AND INDUCTION OF LABOUR

Effectiveness

In the third trimester, there is sufficient evidence of effectiveness for oral misoprostol for induction of labour. However, the data on optimal regimens are lacking.

Safety

There is evidence that demonstrates that effective oral regimens of misoprostol result in unacceptably high incidence of complications such as uterine hyperstimulation and possibly uterine rupture. There is insufficient large clinical trials to assess maternal and perinatal outcomes.

MISOPROSTOL IN POST PARTUM HAEMORRHAGE

Effectiveness

There is insufficient evidence to support the use of misoprostol in prevention of postpartum hemorrhage.

Safety

A number of studies have reported concerns with the usage of misoprostol in third stage of labour.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

There is sufficient evidence that demonstrates that it is a cost effective alternative to use misoprostol in the first trimester, second trimester and third trimester.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

From the legal aspect, misoprostol cannot be used in pregnancy since it has been registered only for treatment of gastric and duodenal ulcers refractory to H₂-receptor antagonists

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the current evidence to date, there is sufficient safety and legal concerns not to recommend misoprostol for cervical priming, termination of pregnancy, induction of labour or postpartum hemorrhage.

A QUINTESSENTIAL GENTLEMAN

DILIP KUMAR SEN

1934 - 2004 (DK)



Those of us who studied and / or worked at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Malaya between 1969-1984 would surely remember Dilip Kumar Sen as a teacher, colleague and a friend. He loved to read and keep abreast of the latest development in medical literature. He was always busy and worked hard often going home late. He would always listen to your personal woes and attempt to find solutions for them. He is best remembered for his extreme kindness towards the oncology patients, holding their hands and constantly reassuring them. His main interest was in Gynaec. Pathology for which he obtained a PhD from Manchester (where he worked under the famous Harold Fox) which naturally led him to the oncology subunit in the department. A brilliant man, he always thought very deeply about the problem afflicting his patients.

DK's association with Malaysia and Singapore goes back many years. Born in 1934 in Singapore, he was the son of the Professor of Bacteriology at the then University of Malaya. His education was both in Singapore (including the Raffles Institute) and in India.

He graduated as a doctor from Calcutta in 1958 and spent his early years in the medical college in Calcutta. In 1960, he went to UK to train in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He obtained his MRCOG in 1962 and also acquired the FRCS (Edinburg). During this period he met his wife Joya. He was interested in becoming an academician and did research in Manchester where he was awarded his PhD in 1969.

In that year, he joined the Department of ObGyn at the University of Malaya. It was a strange place for him after so many years in Great Britain but he prevailed. The department was headed by Professor Donald Chan and the senior lecturers were Dr. Lawrence Chan, Dr. TA Sinnathuray and Dr. Puvan Iswaran (re: IS Puvan Memorial Lecture).

Dr. IS Puvan took charge of infertility and Dr. DK Sen, oncology. However, late 1970's, saw much change in the department. Prof. IS Puvan tragically died in an air crash and many of the senior staff and lecturers left the department.

Despite this setback which can happen to large department, DK, who was associate professor, managed to develop the oncology division. He recruited Prof Siva and Dr. Adlan into the team. This progressed from strength to strength to become one of the leading oncology centre in the country. He was at one stage entrusted the task of being the Head of the Department when Prof. Sinnathuray was on sabbatical leave.

In 1984, beset with the need to educate his 2 children Kamala and Ramen in England, he joined the University of Singapore where he was appointed as Associate Professor in the Department of ObGyn. In 1982, he became editor of the Singapore Journal of ObGyn.

In 1986, he had his first heart attack followed by a triple bypass. Later he was to suffer a stroke and he left his job and returned to Eschbury, Germany. He wrote with pride in his letter about the achievements of his children.

On November 2004, DK Sen passed away peacefully. We will always remember him for his kindness and gentleness to his patients and his warmth and comradeship with his colleagues. He was a fine, fine gentleman who will be deeply missed and remembered by all his friends and colleagues.

Wong Wai Ping
S. Raman

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The wonder of english...

Aoccdnrig to a rscheearch at an enligsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mttær in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht frist and lsat ltteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by itslef but the wrod as a wlohe

What a mix-up...

After being nearly snowbound for two weeks last winter, a Seattle man departed for his vacation in Miami Beach, where he was to meet his wife the next day at the conclusion of her business trip to Minneapolis. They were looking forward to pleasant weather and a nice time together.

Unfortunately, there was some sort of mix up at the boarding gate, and the man was told he would have to wait for a later flight. He tried to appeal to a supervisor but was told the airline was not responsible for the problem and it would do no good to complain.

Upon arrival at the hotel the next day, he discovered that Miami Beach was having a heat wave, and its weather was almost as uncomfortably hot as Seattle's was cold. The desk clerk gave him a message that his wife would arrive as planned. He could hardly wait to get to the pool area to cool off, and quickly sent his wife an email, but due to his haste, he made an error in the email address.

His message therefore arrived at the home of an elderly preacher's wife whose even older husband had died only

the day before. When the grieving widow opened her email, she took one look at the monitor, let out an anguished scream, and fell to the floor dead. Her family rushed to her room where they saw this message on the screen:

Dearest wife,
Departed yesterday as you know.
Just now got checked in.
Some confusion at the gate.
Appeal was denied.
Received confirmation of your arrival tomorrow.
Your loving husband.

*P.S. Things are not as we thought.
You're going to be surprised at how hot it is down here.*

This is what you deserve...



Stop dreaming and get back to work!

(and be happy with what you've got)



Calendar of Events

14th Annual Congress of the International Society for Gynecologic Endoscopy

2 – 6 April 2005

London, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8743 3106

Fax: +44 (0) 20 8743 1010

Email: info@isge2005.org

<http://www.isge2005.org>

Masterclass in Gynecologic Oncologic Surgery

11, 12 and 13 April 2005

or 28, 29 and 30 November 2005

Paris

Tel: +33 1 42 86 40 18

Fax: +33 1 42 86 40 17

Email: e-e-c@wanadoo.fr

5th Malaysian Congress on Menopause

21 – 24 April 2005

Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel, Selangor

Tel: 03-7688 5588

Fax: 03-7688 5599

Email: mad@organon.com.my; drchoon@pd.jaring.my

<http://www.menopause.org.my>

15th Malaysian Congress of O&G

2 – 5 June 2005

Venue: Hotel Equatorial, Penang

Tel: 03-6201 3009

Fax: 03-6201 7009

Email: ogsm@po.jaring.my

7th International Congress on Aids in Asia and the Pacific

1 – 5 July 2005

Kobe Convention Centre, Japan

Tel: +81 6 6377 2188

Fax: +81 6 6377 2075

E-mail: info_icaap7@secretariat.ne.jp

<http://www.icaap7.jp>

5th Singapore O&G Congress

7-10 September 2005

Sheraton Towers, Singapore

Tel: 02-6295 1383

Fax: 02-6299 1969

Email: ogss@pacific.net.sg

<http://www.ogss.net>

7th World Congress of Perinatal Medicine

16 – 19 September 2005

Zagreb, Croatia

Tel: +385 1 2347 661 108

Fax: +385 1 2347 663

E-mail: wcpm7@net.hr

9th Regional meeting of the ISGE

22 – 25 September 2005

Mumbai, India

14th International Meeting of the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO)

25 – 29 September 2005

Turkey, Istanbul

Tel: +41 22 908 0488

Fax: +41 22 732 2850

E-mail: esgo14@esgo.org

<http://www.esgo.org/esgo14>

6th RCOG International Scientific Meeting

27 – 30 September 2005

Cairo, Egypt

Tel: +202 405 3575

Fax: +202 402 0609

Email: pioneerev@hotmail.com

<http://www.rcog2005.com>

XIXth Asian and Oceanic Congress of O&G

1 – 5 October 2005

Seoul, Korea

Tel: +82 2 3471 8555

Fax: +82 2 521 8683

Email: aocog2005@insession.co.kr

<http://www.aocog2005.org>

(2nd Announcement available on request from OGSM Secretariat)

11th World Congress on the Menopause

18 – 22 October 2005

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: +54 11 4381 1777

Fax: +54 11 4382 6703

Email: info@menopause2005.org

<http://www.menopause2005.org>

First World Congress on Gender-Specific Medicine - "A New View of the Biology of Gender Differences and Aging"

23-26 February 2006

Berlin, Germany

Tel: +49 3030128400

Fax: +49 3030 128138

Email: gender@gendermedicine.com

<http://www.gendermedicine.com>

XVIII FIGO World Congress of Gynecology And Obstetrics

5 – 10 November 2006

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: +603-4252 9100

Fax: +603-4252 9800

E-mail: consec@figo2006kl.com

<http://www.figo2006kl.com>

Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia

Suite C-07-02, Plaza Mont'Kiara, No 2, Jalan Kiara, Mont'Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: +(603) 6201 3009 Fax: +(603) 6201 7009

Email: ogsm@po.jaring.my Website: www.ogsm.org.my