

all parties. However, with an open discussion among caregivers and a systematic method of evaluation and treatment, effective management can be achieved.

SUGGESTED READING

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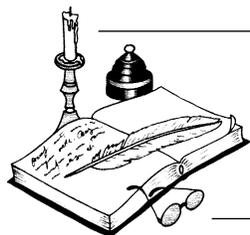
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Physician's Lexicon

The Fruitful Words of Obstetrics

Each clinical discipline in medicine possesses its distinctive history, cultural milieu and terminology. Obstetrics is no different with its abundance of words pertaining to pregnancy and childbirth: terms such as gravid, gestating, parturient, fecund and pregnant.

Gravid is derived from the Latin *gravidus* meaning heavy (with child). Cognate words, such as gravity, gravitas and grave emphasize the weightiness while ignoring its obstetrical meaning. Isaac Newton coined the verb "gravitate," in the sense of moving toward something, to describe his theory of gravity, while *gravy* is an Old English word that is ultimately traced to the Latin, *granum* [grains].

The Latin word, *parere*, meaning producing or bearing, appears in obstetrical parous, parity and viviparous [producing living young; see also words such as vivid and vivisection.] Parity, from the Latin, *paritas* meaning equal, generates a word spelled the same as the obstetrical 'parity' but with a different meaning of equality (as in the phrase 'military parity.')

Parturient, meaning to be in labor, about to deliver, descends from the Latin, *parturire*, (literally, to wish to bring forth) and ultimately from *paere*, to bring forth. Cognate words include post-partum, parity, multiparous, oviparous, puerperal, parent and even repertory (*reparare*).

Labor, meaning to toil, to experience hardship, to work, is derived from the Latin, *labare*, meaning to totter, to slip out. Derivative words include laboratory, belabor, elaborate and collaboration.

Obstetrician, is from the Latin, *obstetricus*, literally meaning, 'she who stands before', from the Latin prefix, *ob*- [before] and *stare* [to stand]. That is, a midwife.

Midwife in an Old German term literally meaning 'with woman'; the midprefix is equivalent to the German, *mit*, meaning with.

Fecundity is from the Latin, *fecundus*, meaning fruitful, fertile; literally, "that which is produced." And fertile derives from the Latin, *fertilis* and ultimately from *ferre*, to carry to bear, to produce.

— STANLEY M. ARONSON, MD