

W&I Obstetrician/Gynecologist publishes book on contraception for medically challenging patients

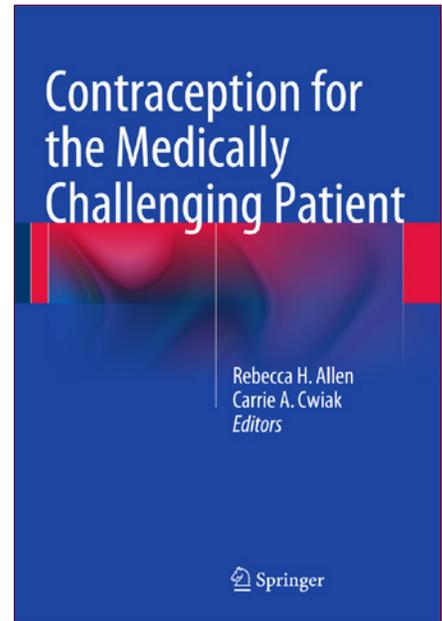
Women with chronic medical conditions can be at higher risk for complications during pregnancy and therefore require specialized preconception and contraceptive care and counseling. However, many medical providers are hesitant to prescribe contraception to these women due to concerns about the safety of various contraceptives with co-existing medical disorders.

REBECCA H. ALLEN, MD, MPH, an obstetrician/gynecologist with expertise in family planning at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island and an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has published a book that offers advice on how to meet the contraceptive needs of women with chronic medical problems. "Contraception for the Medically Challenging Patient" was edited in collaboration with **CARRIE A. CWIAK, MD, MPH**, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Allen explained, "The hesitance in prescribing contraceptives must be balanced against the fact that certain adverse outcomes and disease progression are likely to be greater during pregnancy than during contraceptive use. Therefore, these women deserve more, not less, family planning care so that an appropriate contraceptive can be found to meet their needs."

"Despite published guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is a substantial gap in medical practice regarding the use of contraception in women with chronic medical conditions," she continued. "This book fills that gap and addresses the complex contraceptive needs of today's medically challenging patients with HIV/AIDS, uterine fibroids, obesity, or cardiovascular, neurologic or thyroid diseases, among many others."

The chapter about women with hematologic conditions was co-authored by Dr.



Allen's colleague, **TINA RIZACK, MD**, a hematologist/medical oncologist at Women & Infants' Program in Women's Oncology and assistant professor at the Alpert Medical School. ❖

"Contraception for the Medically Challenging Patient" is now available through Springer at <http://www.springer.com/medicine/gynecology/book/978-1-4939-1232-2>.

Drs. Wenstrom & Carr, fetal medicine specialist at W&I, contribute to Clinical Expert Series in Obstetrics & Gynecology

Series reviews principles, indications and evidence for fetal surgery



Katharine D. Wenstrom, MD

PROVIDENCE – **KATHARINE D. WENSTROM, MD**, director of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Women & Infants Hospital, co-director of the hospital's Integrated Program for High-Risk Pregnancy, and a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Alpert Medical School, and **STEPHEN R. CARR, MD**, director of Women & Infants' Prenatal Diagnosis Center and Maternal-Fetal Medicine Diagnostic Imaging, co-director of the Fetal Treatment Program of New England, and a professor of

obstetrics and gynecology at the Alpert Medical School, have published an article as part of a Clinical Expert Series in the October 2014 edition of *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, now available online. The article is entitled "Fetal Surgery: Principles, Indications, and Evidence."

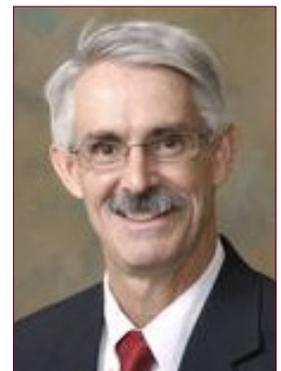
"This article presents the scientific justification for available

in utero interventions, evaluates data on their benefits and risks, and offers a framework for future development and refinement of new and more focused interventions that address fetal problems while minimizing maternal risk," said Dr. Carr.

Drs. Carr and Wenstrom concluded that the tremendous resources that are required to perform fetal surgery, including considerable investment in training that is required of a fetal surgeon, together with the relative rarity of

most of the conditions for which fetal surgery is attempted, necessitate that the number of fetal surgery centers be limited so that each can care for enough patients to justify their cost and maintain the skills of the fetal interventionist.

Obstetrics & Gynecology is the official publication of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (the College). ❖



Stephen R. Carr, MD