



THE WILDERNESS AND WONDERFULNESS OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

AWI IDI



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Published in Malaysia by

UNIMAS Publisher,
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak,
94300 Kota Samarahan,
Sarawak, Malaysia.

Printed in Malaysia by

Lot 2050, Jalan Swasta
Pending Industrial Estate
93450 Kuching, Sarawak,
Malaysia

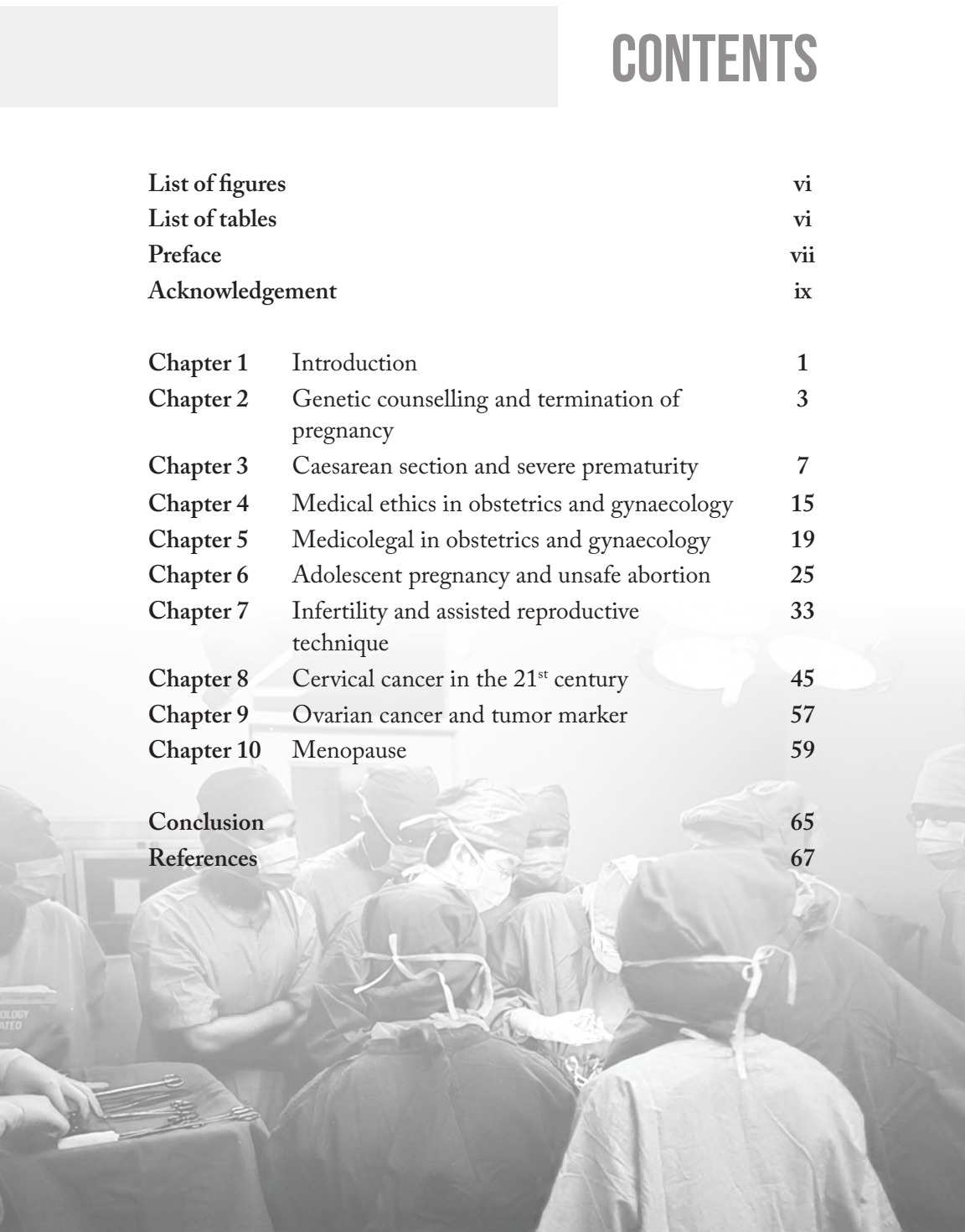
Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Awi Idi, 1966-
THE WILDERNESS AND WONDERFULNESS OF WOMEN'S HEALTH / AWI IDI.
ISBN 978-967-2298-57-1
1. Women--Health and hygiene.
2. Obstetrics.
3. Women--Diseases.
4. Government publications--Malaysia.
I. Title.
613.04244

CONTENTS

List of figures	vi	
List of tables	vi	
Preface	vii	
Acknowledgement	ix	
Chapter 1	Introduction	1
Chapter 2	Genetic counselling and termination of pregnancy	3
Chapter 3	Caesarean section and severe prematurity	7
Chapter 4	Medical ethics in obstetrics and gynaecology	15
Chapter 5	Medicolegal in obstetrics and gynaecology	19
Chapter 6	Adolescent pregnancy and unsafe abortion	25
Chapter 7	Infertility and assisted reproductive technique	33
Chapter 8	Cervical cancer in the 21 st century	45
Chapter 9	Ovarian cancer and tumor marker	57
Chapter 10	Menopause	59
Conclusion		65
References		67



List of Figures

Figure 2.1	An illustration of how chorionic villus sampling is done	5
Figure 2.2	An illustration of amniocentesis procedure	6
Figure 3.1	Picture how to perform a caesarean section in the operation theatre	8
Figure 7.1	An illustration how to perform an intrauterine insemination (IUI). This procedure is done under aseptic technique	36
Figure 7.2	Diagram shows the stages of in vitro fertilization (IVF) is done. There are 6 stages started from ovarian hyperstimulation until the pregnancy is confirmed	38
Figure 7.3	An illustration how to perform intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). It is done under aseptic technique	39
Figure 8.1	Normal cervix seen during colposcopy	48
Figure 8.2	Acetowhite areas after application of acetic acid	49
Figure 8.3	An illustration how large loop excision of transformation zone (LLETZ) is being done in the operation theatre. It is done under local anaesthesia (cervical block)	50
Figure 8.4	Acetowhite areas of the cervical growth which indicate cervical cancer	51

List of Tables

Table 4.1	Number of inquiries at the Medical Council hearing in 2016 (The Malaysian Medical Council Annual Report 2016)	16
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Preface

This book is aimed to discuss recent progress and highlight the current challenges and controversies of Women's Health in the 21st century that need to be addressed. Women's health is closely related to reproductive health. It has many different aspects which can be addressed by the clinician, the public health specialist and the gender advocate, among others.

The emphasis on the discussion is placed on the following issues; genetic counselling, caesarean section as opposed to normal delivery, adolescent pregnancy, assisted reproductive techniques, gynaecological cancer and ageing women. Elements of ethics and medicolegal aspects of managing women are also deliberated in this book.

The general role of the Obstetrician and Gynaecologist (O&G) is to care for pregnant mothers and deliver an alive healthy baby, hence, promoting healthy population growth that would contribute to the countries' development. A childless couple who longs to have a child, now can conceive and have a healthy baby, thanks to the advanced of assisted reproductive techniques being facilitated by the O&G specialists.

Rapid developments and revolutionized in the medical field in the last century, the medical practice is at crossroads facing many ethical and legal challenges in the practice of the profession, whereby the obstetrics and gynaecology field are not spared either.

The availability of the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer and numerous screening methods available to screen cervical cancer enable treatment to be initiated at the earliest to

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, I thank God Almighty. In the process of putting this book together, I realized how true this gift of writing. You give me the power to believe in my passion and pursue my dreams. I could never have done this without the faith I have in You, the Almighty.

I am grateful to Universiti Malaysia Sarawak for giving me the opportunity me to serve and continue my career for almost 30 years. Special thanks and appreciations go to the Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Kadim Suhaidi and former VCs and deputy Vice Chancellors (past and present) allowing serving UNIMAS and for their constant support and encouragement.

I would like to show gratitude to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicines and Health Sciences and all my colleagues in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for their support and constructive comments.

I would like to express thanks to all my colleagues in the Ministry of Health, Dr Harris Suharjono (Sarawak State Consultant) and all Sarawak General Hospital staffs in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for their support and understanding, collaboration and contribution in preparing our research throughout the years.

I wish to express my appreciation to UNIMAS Publisher, the editors and the committee. Without their assistance and dedicated involvement in one way or the other in the publication of this book, I believe that this book would not see the light of the day and would have never been accomplished.

Chapter One

Introduction

Women's health is a concept that embraces the complete World Health Organization (WHO) definition of health. It is a branch of medicine that focuses on the treatment and diagnosis of diseases and conditions that affect a woman's physical and emotional well-being including a wide range of specialities and focus areas, such as contraception, sexually transmitted infections, female cancers, menopause and hormone therapy, pregnancy and childbirth, sexual health and benign condition of female reproductive organs.

Obstetrics and gynaecology is the field of medicine that focuses on the care of the female reproductive system. An obstetrician deals primarily with the management of pregnancy and is responsible for overseeing the labour process and the puerperium, or the period that directly follows childbirth. A gynaecologist, on the other hand, is involved in the general health of the female reproductive system. This includes the diagnosis, treatment, and management of obstetric complications, and comes with a surgical component. Since these two sub-fields are available under a combined training programme, a physician who has completed training is called an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist (O&G) and plays both roles simultaneously.

The establishment and development of sub-specialities and shifts in the demographics of obstetrician and gynaecologist have changed the scope and impact of an O&G role in the modern medical landscape. Today, approximately 30 per cent of all O&G choose a sub-speciality,

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Care for the women health is very challenging as the management is keep on changing based on evidence-based medicine. An obstetrician and gynaecologist must update his knowledge and skills in order to meet the need of their patients in the 21st century. Women Health encompasses care for the pregnancy and childbirth and all aspects of women's reproductive health from onset of puberty through menopause and beyond. Obstetrician and gynaecologist makes diagnosis and treat diseases related to female reproductive organ and perform specific surgery.

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ISBN 978-967-2298-57-1



9 789672 298571