TITLE: Obstetrics Drapes for Caesarean Section: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines

DATE: 26 March 2015

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of obstetrics drapes for women undergoing a caesarean section?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding dropping the head portion of the obstetrics drape during a caesarean section?

KEY FINDINGS

One evidence-based guideline was identified regarding dropping of the head portion of the obstetrics drape during a caesarean section.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, ECRI, The Cochrane Library (2015, Issue 2), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. For the first research question no filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. For the second research question, methodologic filters were applied to limit retrieval to guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2010 and March 18, 2015. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.
SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

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<th>Table 1: Selection Criteria</th>
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<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Intervention</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Comparator</strong></td>
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| **Outcomes** | Q1: Clinical benefit (decreased risk of infection)  
Q2: Guidelines and recommendations (interventions needed to reduce surgical site infections if head drape is dropped – e.g., prophylactic antibiotics) |
| **Study Designs** | Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines |

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

One evidence-based guideline was identified regarding dropping of the head portion of the obstetrics drape during a caesarean section. No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of obstetrics drapes for women undergoing a caesarean section.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

One evidence-based guideline\(^1\) was identified regarding dropping of the head portion of the obstetrics drape during a caesarean section. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guideline on caesarean sections recommends that accommodations should be made, when plausible, for the head drape to be lowered if the mother would like to see the birth of her baby.
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations

   See: Women's preferences during CS 1.4.6.23

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Guidelines and Recommendations – Draping Not Specifically Mentioned


Additional References