



SOGC

Advisory \ *Avis*
de la SOGC

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada / La Société des obstétriciens et gynécologues du Canada

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

C-Sections on Demand – SOGC's position

Ottawa – The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada does **not** promote Caesarean sections on demand. The Society has always promoted natural childbirth and believes that the decision to perform a Caesarean section during labour and delivery should be based on medical indications.

During the past few years, the Society has worked with women's groups and other health care professionals to ensure that women are offered choices in obstetrics and gynaecology. The Society endorses and promotes evidence-based medicine.

At this time, there is no indication that a Caesarean section carries less risk than a vaginal delivery for mother and baby. The Society is concerned that a natural process would be transformed into a surgical process and that elective procedures would create added pressure on health care resources that are already overextended in Canada. At a time where Canadian men and women are waiting weeks if not months for proper treatment of serious conditions such as cancer, it would be irresponsible to promote an elective procedure that would require the increased use of limited resources.

The SOGC, along with other health care providers such as nurses and midwives, have made a strong recommendation that women during labour and birth be accompanied by a trained health care professional and that adequate resources be given to hospitals to fulfill our pledge to offer continuous support during labour and birth.

Internationally, the promotion of Caesarean sections on demand would be a tremendous disaster in countries where resources are scarce. The current trend of increased demands for Caesarean sections in many developing countries is a grave concern given the increase limitations of health care resources in these countries. The World Health Organization also doesn't support C-sections on demand.

The SOGC believes that each individual woman should receive the best information available on her options for labour and birth. The final decision rests between the woman and her health care provider as to the safest route for the birth of the baby. The SOGC will continue to promote natural childbirth and make a strong representation to have adequate resources available for women in labour and during childbirth in Canada.

Information: Andrée Poirier, Director of Communications and Public Relations
Tel: (613) 730-4192 extension 230
E-mail: apoirier@sogc.com Web site: www.sogc.org