

POG Highlights

OB Stats, Claims and Prevention

October 18, 2018

- In all medical specialties: medical malpractice lawsuit verdicts favor the defendant in 90% of cases.
- Top **paid** claims in OBGYN:
 1. Brain damaged infant
 2. Birth trauma
 3. Accidental injury/laceration
- Top **allegations** in OBGYN:
 - Delay in treatment of fetal distress
 - Improper management of vaginal delivery
 - Important to document clinical findings and informed consent
 - Improper management of pregnancy
 - Important to document labs, tests, and patient noncompliance
- The “4 D’s” of medical malpractice: Breach of **D**uty, **D**ereliction, **D**irect cause, **D**amage
- 2 case examples reviewed:
 - Case #1: Shoulder dystocia following vacuum delivery with 9 pulls. Baby with permanent brachial plexus injury
 - Allegation: improper management of operative vaginal delivery
 - Case #2: Uterine rupture following trial of labor after cesarean. Physician was not in house. Cesarean section performed within 30 minutes.
 - Allegation: breach of standard of care (immediate availability of physician).
- How to improve patient safety outcomes:
 - Review records and cases
 - Report errors
 - Improve communications (among clinic staff, hospital staff, patients)
 - Peer review in every clinic.