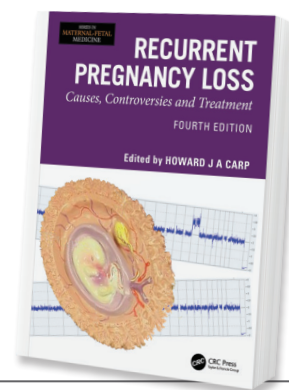


Recurrent Pregnancy Loss: Causes, Controversies and Treatment, Fourth Edition

Edited by Howard Carp

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The fourth edition of *Recurrent Pregnancy Loss: Causes, Controversies and Treatment* summarizes the controversies and discuss the scientific basis for the various causes of recurrent pregnancy loss in depth and to clarify the various treatment modalities. The book shows a radical departure from the format of the previous three editions and succeeds profoundly in satisfying its objective. This book, first published in 2007, the second edition in 2014, and the third edition in 2020 became the foremost and most comprehensive work on recurrent pregnancy loss. In the fourth edition there are new chapters on the epigenetics of recurrent pregnancy loss, biochemical pregnancies, inflammatory placental disorders, artificial intelligence, and the role of hydroxychloroquine. This edition also discusses whether the decline in male infertility is reflected in recurrent pregnancy loss.

There are 40 chapters in total, each written by international experts in their field from Israel, United States, United Kingdom, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Japan, India, and Italy. The editor has included unusual subjects, including Chinese Medicine, and a critique comparing evidence based and personalized

medicine. In the latter chapter, the author argues very convincingly that treating recurrent pregnancy loss as one homogeneous condition and using a trial to determine effect in a large number of patients, while still considered by many to be the gold standard, may be passé, and should be replaced by a paradigm based on accurate diagnosis. The personalized approach is now possible as accurate diagnoses can be achieved when the abortus is subjected to genetic analysis using molecular techniques. In addition, the conclusions of negative trials are questioned, as positive results may be obtained when trials are restricted to appropriate patients.

An unusual feature of the previous editions was the inclusion of debates on controversial issues argued by leading authorities. Many controversial issues, which seemed to have reached a consensus, have resurfaced, and returned to controversy. In the fourth edition there are also debates on the use of progestogens, pregestational genetic testing, anticoagulants, and filgrastim. The controversies are fully discussed and often help the reader decide which line of management to take in different patients.

The major advances in genetics, immunology, endocrinology, and thrombotic mechanisms are described in depth. The chapter on the genetics of recurrent pregnancy loss has been completely rewritten to consider new-

er molecular techniques such as exome sequencing and whole genome sequencing.

The chapter on fetal anomalies integrates genetic and embryoscopic diagnoses and the implications for genetic counselling. It is very valuable to see the multi-disciplinary approach brought into action.

The guidelines from professional organizations regarding appropriate management are usually held to be sacrosanct. Therefore, it is interesting to see the guidelines from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, and the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology contrasted and compared. In view of the different recommendations in the various professional guidelines, it is reassuring to have the benefit of the author's vast experience when treating patients.

The text makes compelling reading and is highly recommended. Both general gynecologists and specialists working in the field will find the fourth edition a most helpful reference for their approach to patients.

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