Caribbean Obstetrics and Gynaecology-Elective in St Lucia

Dr Chloe Vanderpump

F1 Princess of Wales Hospital
Victoria Hospital

Government run

100 beds

- 30 bed obstetric ward
- 10 gynae and breast beds

3 Obs and Gynae consultants
Why St Lucia?

Experience of living and working in a developing country

Gain more experience in Obs and Gynae

Improve clinical examination skills

Encounter unusual pathologies

Personal development
Aims vs Experience

- Majority of time was spent in obstetrics
- Closer link with paediatrics than expected
- Fewer ‘unusual pathologies’ than anticipated
- Differences in communication style and clinical management
- Realities of healthcare in the developing world
WHO Statistics

- Population 165,000
- Life expectancy - 79F, 72M
- Birth rate range 1882-2233 (2012-2015)
- Infant death rate 33-43
- Neonatal deaths contribute 60%
Perinatal Mortality Statistics for February 2016

- 117 births - 114 live, 3 still
- 26% deliveries via caesarean section
  - Year average - 28%
- 10% pregnancies were to teen mothers
- 1 neonatal death, 0 maternal deaths
  - 4 ‘near misses’ for maternal death
- Perinatal mortality calculated as 35.7 per 1000
Case Study: Still Birth in 15 y/o Primip

- Unknown gestation (approximately 30 weeks)
- Complex social issues
- No antenatal care
- No past medical history

Presenting complaint - abdominal pain and reduced foetal movement

On examination - SFH 30cm, USS normal

Urine dip: nitrates ++, Leucocytes ++

Second presentation - absent foetal movements

On examination - SFH 26cm, no foetal heart detected on USS
Comparisons with my experiences in Wales

- Communication style
  - paternalistic

- Contraceptive methods
  - How paying for healthcare affects patient choice

- ‘Prophylactic sodium valproate’
Life after Elective

- Planning a career in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- ALSO UK course
- SWAPS conference
- Article on elective in ‘The Electives Network’ newsletter
- Hospital Lead in ‘Size of Sepsis in Wales’ Study

- F2 rotation in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Thank you to the Welsh Obstetrics and Gynaecology for their extremely generous bursary!

Any questions?