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Evidence-Based Guideline on Laparoscopy in Pregnancy

Commissioned by the British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (BSGE)

Endorsed by the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG)

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Abstract

Laparoscopy is widely utilised to diagnose and treat acute and chronic, gynaecological and general surgical conditions. It has only been in recent years that laparoscopy has become an acceptable surgical alternative to open surgery in pregnancy. To date there is little clinical guidance pertaining to laparoscopic surgery in pregnancy. This is why the BSGE commissioned this guideline. MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL and the Cochrane library were searched up to February 2017 and evidence was collated and graded following the NICE-approved process. The conditions included in this guideline are laparoscopic management of acute appendicitis, acute gall bladder disease and symptomatic benign adnexal tumours in pregnancy.

The intended audience for this guideline is obstetricians and gynaecologists in secondary and tertiary care, general surgeons and anaesthetists. However, only laparoscopists who have adequate laparoscopic skills and who perform complex laparoscopic surgery regularly should undertake laparoscopy in pregnant women, since much of the evidence stems from specialised centres.

Key words: Laparoscopy in pregnancy, Appendicitis in pregnancy, Gallbladder disease / Cholecystitis in pregnancy, Benign adnexal tumours / Ovarian cysts in pregnancy.

1. Purpose and scope

The scope of this guideline is the laparoscopic management of non-obstetric, abdominal conditions in pregnancy. Laparoscopy is widely utilised to diagnose and treat, acute and chronic, gynaecological and general surgical conditions. It is only in recent

years that laparoscopy has become an acceptable surgical alternative to open surgery in pregnancy. To date there is little clinical guidance pertaining to laparoscopic surgery in pregnancy. This is why the British Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy (BSGE) commissioned this guideline using evidence grading as used by the Royal College of Obstetricians