

### **CTG study day - an introduction**

During this CTG study day, Prof Phil Steer (Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics, Imperial College London, and Emeritus Editor, BJOG – an International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology) will use his 45 years of fetal monitoring experience to help participants construct a rational approach to the use of continuous fetal heart rate monitoring in intrapartum care. It will be aimed both at those early in their career, and that those who would like to hone their existing skills.

The first session will remind participants of how fetal monitors work. Failure to understand the technology is a common cause of errors in the interpretation of fetal heartrate recordings.

The second session will review fetal pathophysiology, in particular how hypoxia, hypoxaemia, acidosis, and asphyxia are defined, and their interrelationships.

Following coffee, the third section will present a systematic analysis of the fetal heart rate tracing, emphasising how to recognise artefact, and illustrating some of the more unusual abnormalities encountered.

There will be a session to integrate the clinical features of concern and explain how changes in the fetal heartrate should be interpreted in the presence of other stressors such as pyrexia, chorioamnionitis, passage of meconium into the amniotic fluid, and mechanical forces. This session will be followed by lunch

Next, there is a session to discuss provided CTG's in small groups, following which there will be a feedback session to agree a consensus.

The session after tea will cover other fetal monitoring techniques, and we will finish with a discussion of why correct CTG interpretation is so vital, both for the health of the fetus and from the medicolegal perspective. The day will wind up with the final discussion of any remaining questions.