Anecdotal evidence. An oxymoron? Or a valid approach to understanding data?


What if there is no evidence?

- Generate new evidence
- Harness ‘weaker forms of evidence’
- Harness expert opinion

How?

- Literature review
- Survey using online questionnaire
- Expert opinion (Delphi method)

Snippet of survey results...

Epidural: 76% always, 3% never
Parenteral antibiotics: 72% always, 8% never
Intra uterine medication: 62% antibiotics, 16% antiseptics, 21% never
Vaginal sutures: 59% always, 22% sometimes, 19% never
Snipet of survey results...

Prognosis:
Estimate the proportion of prolapse cases that become pregnant in their next lactation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Pregnant</th>
<th>% Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-25%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-50%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>51-75%</strong></td>
<td><strong>50%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-100%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions survey:
- Positive feedback
- Reliability of responses
- Evidence based medicine?

Next step:
- Delphi method: consensus technique

Outcome:
- Practical guideline

Summary

'The plural of anecdote is not data' (Roger Brinner)

How to move forward?
- Use of practice based data
- Priorities, challenges, opportunities