The GP and the Specialist

Obstetrics

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The close working relationship between the general practitioners and the obstetrician has developed from the practice of shared care. This cooperation will not be effective unless the obstetrician is well informed about the patient and is equally informed about the practice of the general practitioner.

Diagnosis of pregnancy and hospital referral

A pregnancy test is an effective method of diagnosing pregnancy in its early stages, but it is not completely reliable. The test should be performed as soon as possible after the patient has been informed. A positive result should be confirmed by a second test, which should be performed 2-3 weeks later. If the result is negative, the patient should be advised to seek medical advice. A negative result should be confirmed by a medical examination.

Shared care

Antenatal care can be given by the general practitioner, but it is advisable to transfer the patient to the obstetrician for the last 8 weeks of pregnancy. This is the most critical period of pregnancy, and the obstetrician can provide better care.

Prenatal care

Prenatal care is an essential part of obstetric care. It should include regular medical examinations, blood tests, and ultrasound scans. The obstetrician should also be involved in the care of the patient throughout the pregnancy.

Delivery of the baby

The decision to deliver the baby is made by the obstetrician, but the general practitioner should be present to ensure that the patient is adequately prepared. The general practitioner should also be available to provide assistance if necessary.

Postnatal care

Postnatal care is an important part of obstetric care. It should include regular medical examinations and advice on parenting. The general practitioner should be involved in the care of the patient after the delivery of the baby.