EDITORIAL

Developing core outcome set for women's, newborn, and child health: the CROWN Initiative

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Clearly defined and relevant clinical outcomes of importance to all key stakeholders are essential if clinical trials, systematic reviews, and guidelines are to translate to the real world and improve patient care. Unfortunately, we have a long way to go in perinatal and pediatric health care. A recent systematic review of interventions for the prevention preterm birth included 103 randomized clinical trials in which 72 different outcomes were reported. This heterogeneity of outcomes limits the synthesis and usability of research,¹ and contributes to research waste.² Core outcome sets (COS) have been developed to address this problem. These are the agreed *minimum* set of outcomes to be reported in all clinical trials in a specific health condition or area and are also suitable for use in clinical audit or research other than randomized trials.

The Core Outcome Measures in Effectiveness Trials (COMET) Initiative (<http://www.comet-initiative.org/>) involves individuals interested in the development and application of agreed standardized sets of outcomes, known as "COSs". Core outcome sets are not meant to be restrictive, and clinical trials would ideally include core outcomes as well as other outcomes of interest. The COMET initiative describes a 5-step COS development process.³ These involve a review of existing knowledge and consensus development approaches to agreeing the COS. Similar to the publication of clear guidelines on clinical trial reporting such as CONSORT (<http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/consort/>) and PRISMA for systematic reviews (<http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/prisma/>), standardized guidelines have been developed for COS. COS-STAD⁴ establishes minimum standards for the development of COS, and COS-STAR⁵ provides guidance on the final reporting of COS. The importance of incorporating patient perspectives, including patient-reported outcome measures,⁶ in COS is increasingly recognized.⁷

The CROWN collaboration (<http://www.crown-initiative.org/>) involves over 54 journals related to women's and newborn health who have come together to support The CoRe Outcomes in Women's and Newborn health (CROWN) Initiative (Aims of CROWN initiative: Box 1). This group has recently published the COS for studies aimed at preterm birth prevention⁸ and is committed to publishing and disseminating core outcomes to improve Women's and Newborn health.

Duffy et al. recently performed a systematic review of core outcomes in women's and newborn health; although this identified 49 COSs registered in women and newborn, only 3 of these related to newborn health.⁹ One of these is the COIN project: Core Outcomes In Neonatology (<http://neopoch.com/core-outcomes/>), which is establishing the most important outcomes for parents, children, and adults who received neonatal care, health-care professionals, and researchers.¹⁰

Over 20 years ago, perinatal health-care pioneered the application of systematic reviews to improve care.¹¹ We propose that women's and newborn's health should again lead the way, reducing research waste and making research more relevant, by developing, disseminating, and applying core outcome sets. The journal *Pediatric Research* is delighted to demonstrate our interest in publishing core outcomes in newborn and child health, encouraging their use in clinical trials and furthering their wide dissemination, by becoming part of the CROWN Initiative.

List of CROWN member journals

- 1 Acta Obstetrica et Gynaecologica Scandinavica
- 2 American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (AJOG)
- 3 American Journal of Perinatology
- 4 Archives of Gynaecology and Obstetrics
- 5 Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, The
- 6 Best Practice & Research: Clinical Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- 7 Birth: Issues in Perinatal Care
- 8 BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- 9 BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
- 10 BMC Women's Health
- 11 Breast Journal, The
- 12 Chinese Journal of Perinatal Medicine(中华围产医学杂志)
- 13 Climacteric
- 14 Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology
- 15 Clinics in Perinatology
- 16 Cochrane Gynecology and Fertility Group
- 17 Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group
- 18 Contraception
- 19 Contraception & Reproductive Medicine
- 20 Current Opinion in Obstetrics and Gynecology
- 21 European Journal of Contraception and Reproductive Health Care, The
- 22 European Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Biology
- 23 Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery
- 24 Fertility and Sterility
- 25 Fertility Research and Practice
- 26 Fetal Diagnosis and Therapy
- 27 Geburtshilfe und Frauenheilkunde
- 28 Ginekologia Polska
- 29 Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation
- 30 Gynecologic Oncology
- 31 Gynecologic Oncology Reports
- 32 Gynecological Surgery
- 33 Human Fertility
- 34 Human Reproduction
- 35 Human Reproduction Update

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36 Hypertension in Pregnancy
 37 International Breastfeeding Journal
 38 International Journal of Childbirth
 39 International Journal of Fertility and Sterility
 40 International Journal of Gynecological Cancer
 41 International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics
 42 International Urogynecology Journal
 43 Journal de Gynecologie Obstétrique et Biologie de la Reproduction
 44 Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care
 45 Journal of Gynecologic Oncology
 46 Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease
 47 Journal of Maternal Fetal and Neonatal Medicine, The
 48 Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health
 49 Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology
 50 Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing
 51 Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology
 52 Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada
 53 Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology Research
 54 Journal of Ovarian Research
 55 Journal of Pediatric & Adolescent Gynecology
 56 Journal of Perinatal & Neonatal Nursing
 57 Journal of Perinatal Medicine
 58 Maternal and Child Nutrition
 59 Maternal Health, Neonatology and Perinatology
 60 MCN American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing, The
 61 Menopause Review (Przegląd Menopauzalny)
 62 Menopause: Journal of The North American Menopause Society, The
 63 Midwifery
 64 Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Obstetrie en Gynaecologie (NTOG)
 65 Neurourology and Urodynamics
 66 New Zealand College of Midwives Journal
 67 Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, The (TOG)
 68 Obstetrics & Gynecology
 69 Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology
 70 Pediatric Research
 71 Placenta
 72 Post Reproductive Health
 73 Prenatal Diagnosis
 74 Reproductive Health
 75 Reproductive Health Library
 76 Russian Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

77 Twin Research and Human Genetics
 78 Ultrasound in Obstetrics & Gynecology
 79 Women and Birth
 80 Women's Midlife Health

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