

## iCAHE JC Critical Appraisal Summary

### Journal Club Details

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<b>Journal Club</b>	Continence & Women's Health
<b>JC Facilitator:</b>	Tory Toogood
<b>JC Discipline:</b>	Physiotherapy

### Article/Paper:

Fitzgerald CM & Mallinson T 2012, 'The association between pelvic girdle pain and pelvic floor muscle function in pregnancy', International Urogynecology Journal, vol. 23, pp. 893-898.

*Please note: due to copyright regulations CAHE is unable to supply a copy of the critically appraised paper/article. If you are an employee of the South Australian government you can obtain a copy of articles from the [DOHSA librarian](#).*

**Journal Club Meeting on:** 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013



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Ques No.	Yes	Can't Tell	No	Comments
1	✓			<p><b>Was the purpose stated clearly?</b></p> <p>The objective of this study was to determine pelvic floor muscle (PFM) function in second trimester women with and without pelvic girdle pain (PGP). The authors hypothesize that women with clinically defined PGP would have more abnormalities of the pelvic floor muscles than women without PGP.</p>
2	✓			<p><b>Was relevant background literature reviewed?</b></p> <p>The authors report on the definition, incidence, nature and distribution of PGP. They explain the relationship and possible cause of PGP in pregnancy.</p>
3	✓			<p><b>Describe the study design. Was the design appropriate for the study question? (e.g., for knowledge level about this issue, outcomes, ethical issues, etc.)</b></p> <p>The study design was a prospective cross-sectional study.</p>
4	✓		✓	<p><b>Was the sample described in detail?</b></p> <p>Baseline characteristics of the groups were similar in terms of age, gestational weeks at the time of presentation, educational level, parity, and medical history.</p> <p><b>Was the sample size justified?</b></p> <p>56 women met the inclusion criteria and were eligible for the study. No justification of the sample size was given by the authors.</p>

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5		<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p><b>What outcome measures were used and what is the frequency of them being used?</b></p> <p>Each patient completed seven self-report questionnaires including the Personal Health Information Questionnaire, a pain questionnaire including the Visual Analog Scale (VAS) and a pain diagram, Quebec Back Pain Disability Scale, the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), the Health Status Questionnaire- Short Form (SF12), the International Consultation on Incontinence Questionnaire-Short Form and the Pelvic Organ Prolapse/Urinary Incontinence Sexual Function Questionnaire (PISQ-12).</p> <p>Musculoskeletal tests : The Stork test, modified Trendelenburg for pubic symphysis provocation, the posterior pelvic pain provocation test (P4), the Patrick FABER's test, long dorsal ligament tenderness, pubic symphysis tenderness, the active straight leg raise, rectus abdominis diastasis assessment, and three extrapelvic tenderness sites including medial knee, lateral elbow, and second rib. This portion of the examination was then followed by a vaginal examination of the PFM.</p> <p><b>Were the outcome measures reliable?</b></p> <p><b>Were the outcome measures valid?</b></p> <p>The authors make no mention of the validity or reliability of the above tests or questionnaires.</p>
6	Not applicable		<p><b>Was the intervention described in detail?</b></p> <p><b>Contamination was avoided?</b></p> <p><b>Co intervention was avoided?</b></p>

	✓			<p><b>Were the results reported in terms of statistical significance?</b></p> <p>Categorical variables were compared using Fisher's exact test and continuous variables with a two sided unpaired t test. Two-sided P values&lt;0.05 were considered statistically significant. Data were analyzed using Stata 11.0 (College Station, TX). Results were reported in terms of p values.</p> <p><b>Clinical importance was reported?</b></p> <p>The findings of this study suggest involvement of the deep PFM in acute PGP in the second trimester. This is important because in the future it may help clinicians delineate the contributing pathoanatomic pain generators in women with pregnancy-related PGP. These structures could then be better targeted in physical therapy and other rehabilitative treatments.</p> <p><b>Drop outs were reported?</b></p> <p>There were no drop outs in the study.</p>
7	✓			
	N/A			
8				<p><b>The conclusions were appropriate given the study methods and results?</b></p> <p>Journal club to discuss and decide.</p>

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