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Towards better prognostic and diagnostic strategies for major obstetric haemorrhage

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Citation

Gillissen, A. (2019, September 11). *Towards better prognostic and diagnostic strategies for major obstetric haemorrhage*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/77440>

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<http://hdl.handle.net/1887/77440>

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Issue Date: 2019-09-11

Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Towards better prognostic and diagnostic strategies for major obstetric haemorrhage

1. During persistent postpartum haemorrhage in a high-resource setting, the effect of administering tranexamic acid on both blood loss and maternal morbidity may be disappointing. *(this thesis)*
2. Attention should be given to the change in coagulation parameters during the course of postpartum haemorrhage, although in light of the conventional coagulation tests available, it is understandable that coagulation status is often ignored. *(this thesis)*
3. There is no role for bleeding scores in identification of women who will develop postpartum haemorrhage, although the most relevant question is: did it happen before? *(this thesis)*
4. To enable safe clinical-decision making during postpartum haemorrhage, more reliable tests that can quickly and reliably quantify fibrinogen concentration are needed. *(this thesis)*
5. ‘To bleed or not to bleed?’, that’s the question.
6. A retrospective design might be the best choice for studies into acute situations like postpartum haemorrhage. *(Peter Collins 2017, this thesis)*
7. “Labour is the closest a woman may ever be to the threshold between life and death while she is still very much alive”. *(Anne Frye)*
8. “Perhaps the safest prediction we can make about the future is that it will surprise us”. *(George Leonard)*
9. “Blut ist ein ganz besondrer Saft” (Blood is a very special juice). *(Johann Wolfgang von Goethe In Faust, Part I, 1808)*
10. The most invisible, yet indispensable co-author of this thesis is Ludovico Einaudi.
11. “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re gonna get.” *(Forrest Gump 1994)* Although you try to organize and plan your work and life (and PhD) as much as you can, there are always unexpected events that change your plans along the way.
12. “Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible”. *(Francis of Assisi)* When you start with a new project it can be overwhelming. You lack overview, and it might seem impossible to finish successfully. By working step by step, you slowly work towards the finish.

Ada Gillissen

Leiden, 11 september 2019