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Maternal morbidity and mortality in the Netherlands and their association with obstetric interventions

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift 'Maternal morbidity and mortality in the Netherlands and their association with obstetric interventions'

1. The Netherlands have one of the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratios in Europe and deaths due to heart disease are now the main cause of maternal deaths. (This thesis)
2. Identification of women with the highest risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes has now been done; it is now high time to adjust our healthcare system accordingly and improve their outcomes.
3. It is time to re-introduce an enhanced cross-checking method for maternal mortality case ascertainment.
4. Caesarean sections may save lives of women and babies in need of this obstetric intervention, but will also contribute to the death of some women; this is unacceptable, particularly if women did not have an appropriate medical indication for surgery. (This thesis)
5. An obstetrician must know when to perform a peripartum hysterectomy in order to save a woman's life; 'too soon' means robbing her future fertility, 'too late' will result in death. (This thesis)
6. There is no such thing as believers and non-believers of obstetric interventions; it's all a matter of inconclusive evidence.
7. The national prevalence of peripartum hysterectomy varies with a country's rate of caesarean section, income status, access to health facilities and availability of alternative management options. (This thesis)
8. International collaboration of population-based cohort studies will enable us to identify better management options for rare obstetric diseases.
9. Het enige zekere in het maken van plannen is dat het anders zal lopen dan gepland.
10. "Ride as much or as little, as long or as short as you feel. But ride." — Eddy Merckx, Belgian pro racer (1945 – present). *We can all contribute to improve healthcare*
11. "Somewhere between the bottom of the climb and the summit is the answer to the mystery why we climb." — Greg Child, Australian mountain climber (1957-present). *Everything is easier when you love the process, not only the destination.*
12. "You have to believe in the long term plan you have but you need the short term goals to motivate and inspire you." — Roger Federer (1981-present). *A PhD is a collection of lots of short term goals.*