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Wilson and Homer reply to Papadakis

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Title Page

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Article type : Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Thank you for your letter regarding consideration of an additional peripartum parameter, which could contribute to improving clinical outcomes and your description of the Anterior Ninety-degree Elevation Forceps (ANEF) technique.¹ Myrikas and Papadakis in their 2018 paper describe the ANEF approach and their experience. They present their cumulative data in 360 consecutive women where the Neville–Barnes ANEF approach was used over the past 4.5 years on women having their first baby. In this population, the rate of severe perineal trauma was 1.9% (n=7).¹ As we are not specialist obstetricians we will not make a comment about the ANEF approach per se but will leave that to our obstetric colleagues.

We did not include this paper or the work of these authors as ours was a review of recently published systematic reviews (within the last 5 years).

Nonetheless, we completely agree that good communication and clinical skills are critical to improving prevention and management of third- and fourth-degree tears and welcome research in this field, especially in an Australian and New Zealand context. Communication – between the woman and the clinicians, between the clinicians and her partner and support people, between the obstetrician and the midwives, and within the discipline teams - are all crucial to ensure teamwork and patient safety remain woman centred and focussed.

Kind regards,

Alyce Wilson and Caroline Homer

1. Myrikas S, Papadakis K. Anterior non-episiotomy or natural forceps delivery: refining the technique and improving communication as a way of reducing obstetric anal sphincter injuries in instrumental deliveries. *Journal of Pelvic, Obstetric and Gynaecological Physiotherapy*, 2018; 122: 50–55.