

Stellingen

1. With changes in age at surgery and more extensive use of a transanular patch in the second versus the first surgical decade, patients with tetralogy of Fallot have better outcome of the left side of the heart, at the expense of more interventions of the right side. *This thesis*
2. Pregnant patients with structural heart disease have a 100-fold increase of maternal mortality compared to the normal population, especially with high-risk patients in developing countries becoming pregnant. *This thesis*
3. Heart failure occurs in 13% of patients with structural heart disease during pregnancy and is strongly associated with pre-eclampsia. *This thesis*
4. The use of cardiac medication should be discussed pre-pregnancy, as the need of medication is a strong predictor for fetal complications. *This thesis*
5. Mothers with heart disease are at risk of having a child with low birth weight, luckily most of these small children show compensatory growth after birth. *This thesis*
6. "Pregnancy is a physiological state that allows characterization of cardiac morphological and physiological adaptation of the human heart to chronic increase in preload and afterload." Uri R. Elkayam, *Circ Cardiovasc Imaging*, 2012
7. "Curiosity leads to discoveries which in turn lead to questions." Anthony J. Adams, *Optometry and Vision Science*, 2010
8. "The only thing that actually changes practice is an adverse anecdote." Alison M. Stuebe, *New England Journal of Medicine*, 2011
9. "Although randomized controlled trials are powerful tools and rightfully considered the gold-standard for therapeutic interventions, in some situations, observational studies may be the only means of assessing an intervention as a result of ethical and/or practical concerns." J.L. Kelsey, *Methods in Observational Epidemiology*, Oxford University Press, 1996
10. "Since the unravelling of the human genome, advances in molecular biology are changing completely future treatment approaches." P.A. Voute, *Cancer in children: Clinical management*, Oxford medical publications, 2005
11. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. Eleanor Roosevelt