

[Döderlein D \(1910\)](#). The origin and prevention of puerperal fever. *BMJ* 2:1222-24.

Key passages

THE ORIGIN AND PREVENTION OF PUERPERAL FEVER.

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Practical experience also favours this natural method of treatment of normal parturition, though statistical evidence on the point must be examined with care if false conclusions are not to be drawn.

The comparison of clinics employing fundamentally different methods of treatment may easily lead us astray. Different results do not authorize the conclusion that the cause for these differences lies in special principles of treatment. Conditions in different hospitals vary too much for general conclusions to be formed from single measures.

Whether prophylactic treatment of the genitalia of the parturient woman is advantageous, or, on the contrary, even injurious, can only be decided by comparing the results of different methods at one and the same hospital and during the same period.

I have at different times made such investigations in my clinics at Tübingen and Munich. Alternately one parturient was disinfected and the other not, so that there were always at the same time lying-in women of both classes together in the hospital who had been confined at the same time, and in other respects than that of vaginal disinfection under exactly the same conditions.