

*A Poem For Obstetricians
About Vacuum Extraction*



By Aldo Vacca

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It's Always More Posterior Than You Think
By Aldo Vacca

*Vacuum extraction may drive some to distraction
While others may find comfort in a drink
Though life's replete with clichés, the answer is in the catch phrase
"It's always more posterior than you think"*

*There is clinical confusion at the vacuum cups' profusion
Made of plastic, rubber, steel or alloyed zinc.
But design, not the make-up is the feature that will make cups
Move a little more posterior than you think.*

*Need and good intention are the mother of invention
New cups appear as quick as you can blink.
But when the head is malrotated the flexion point is situated
A good deal more posterior than you think.*

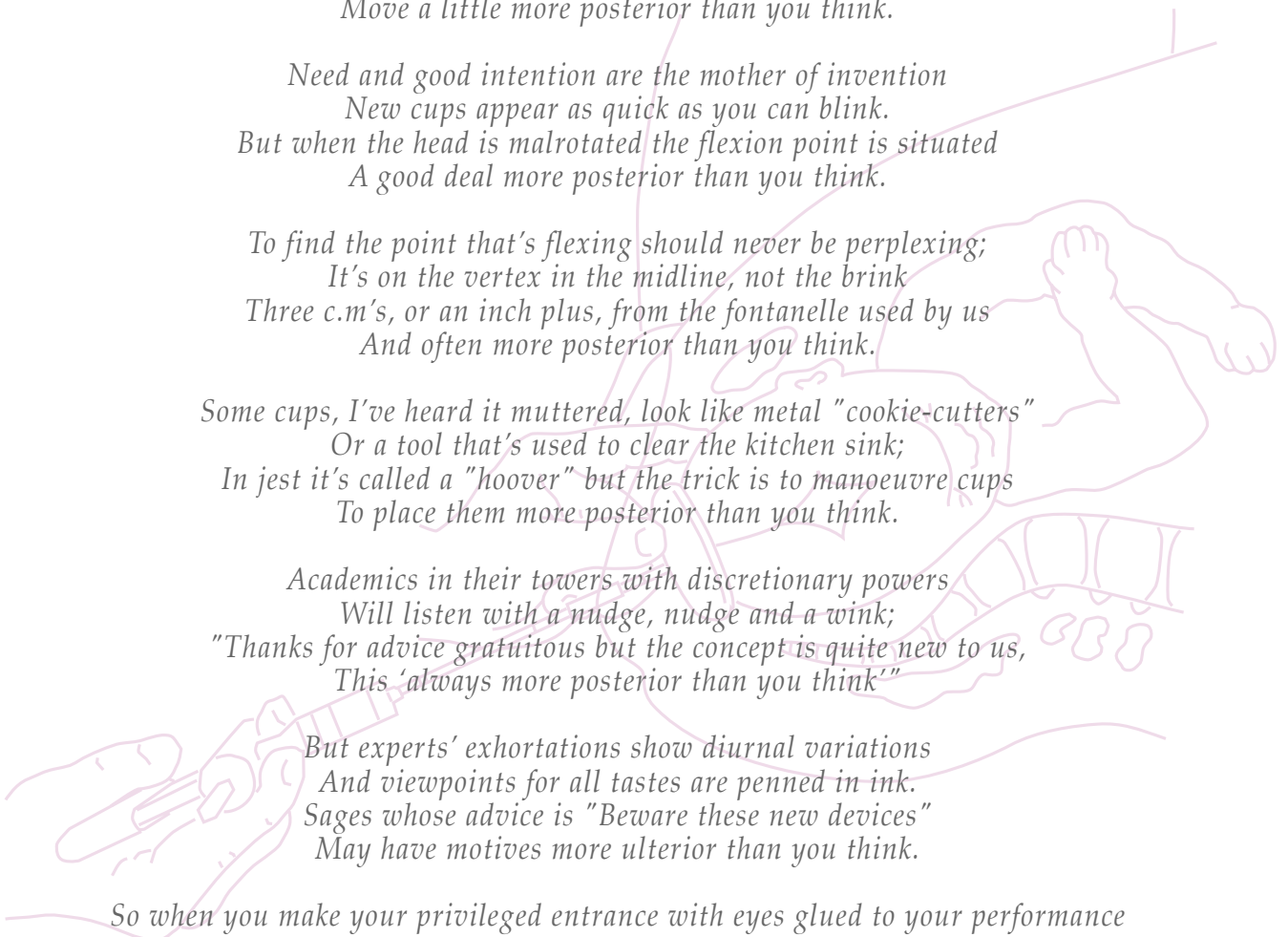
*To find the point that's flexing should never be perplexing;
It's on the vertex in the midline, not the brink
Three c.m's, or an inch plus, from the fontanelle used by us
And often more posterior than you think.*

*Some cups, I've heard it muttered, look like metal "cookie-cutters"
Or a tool that's used to clear the kitchen sink;
In jest it's called a "hoover" but the trick is to manoeuvre cups
To place them more posterior than you think.*

*Academics in their towers with discretionary powers
Will listen with a nudge, nudge and a wink;
"Thanks for advice gratuitous but the concept is quite new to us,
This 'always more posterior than you think'"*

*But experts' exhortations show diurnal variations
And viewpoints for all tastes are penned in ink.
Sages whose advice is "Beware these new devices"
May have motives more ulterior than you think.*

*So when you make your privileged entrance with eyes glued to your performance
Your throat feels dry and you wish you had that drink;
If your heart starts palpitating just start reiterating
"It's always more posterior than you think."*



A Poem For Obstetricians About Vacuum Extraction

*Inside you may feel frantic for the fetus feels gigantic
And the head is stuck. But you can make it shrink.
A vertex that is well flexed measures smaller than when deflexed
So place cups more posterior than you think.*

*Assess important factors then put theory into practice;
Don't try to be the expert nor the fink.
When delivering with a vacuum heed Bird's universal dictum
"It's always more posterior than you think."*

*You make your explanation and receive cooperation
The pump's airtight, the tubing doesn't kink.
You stand there poised with chosen cup knowing that to you it's up
To place it more posterior than you think.*

*With minimal exertion you complete the cup's insertion
Moving smoothly just like skaters on a rink.
And you synchronise your tractions with the uterine contractions
And direct them more posterior than you think.*

*In three pulls, perhaps fewer, oh thank God, hallelujah!
The child is born, it's noisy and it's pink
But, as you check the suction chignon you observe the cup's position
Should be somewhat more posterior than you think.*

*No longer the apprentice you have joined the birthing business
But you'll succeed, you've found the missing link:
When cupping and with traction during vacuum extraction
"It's always more posterior than you think."*

Epilogue

*In operatic chorus let us sing in voice sonorous
And spread the word. Are you ready? All in sync:
"When cupping and with traction during vacuum extraction
It's always more posterior than you think."*