

Objectives

- Review the maternal-fetal assessment that are initiated during labor
- Compare and contrast the different stages of labor
- Describe the procedure and significance of Leopold's maneuvers
- Explain the physiology, characteristics and interventions for early, late and variable decelerations
- Discuss the characteristics of bradycardia and tachycardia
- Identify interventions for non-reassuring (abnormal fetal heart rate patterns)
- Summarize the indications and use of scalp stimulation

Content Outline

1. Maternal assessment
 - 1.1 Prenatal record
 - 1.2 High risk screening
 - 1.3 Physical and psycho-socio-cultural assessment
2. Labor Progress Evaluation
 - 2.1 Uterine activity assessment
 - 2.2 External and internal fetal heart rate monitoring
3. Fetal Assessment
 - 3.1 Leopold's maneuvers
 - 3.2 Fetal heart auscultation
4. Electronic Fetal Monitoring
 - 4.1 Fetal heart rate patterns
 - 4.1.1. Baseline rate
 - 4.1.2. Tachycardia/bradycardia
 - 4.1.3. Wandering baseline
 - 4.1.4. Sinusoidal baseline
 - 4.1.5. Fetal dysrhythmias
 - 4.2 Fetal heart rate changes
 - 4.2.1. Accelerations
 - 4.2.2. Decelerations
 - 4.2.3. Early
 - 4.2.4. Variable
 - 4.2.5. Late
5. Indirect methods of fetal assessment
 - 5.1 Scalp stimulation
 - 5.2 Cord blood analysis

Reading Material Resources

This self assessment module is based on the resources listed below.

The reading materials are in the form of a PDF file and can be accessed from the online testing center once the module is purchased.

Chapter 23, Intrapartal Nursing Assessment, Maternal-Newborn Nursing Women's Health Across the Lifespan, Davidson, Michele, et al., Pearson Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2008, pages 602-642.