

Objectives

- Contrast the cardiovascular status of a woman during pregnancy as compared to related findings in the non-pregnant state
- Describe the impact and outcomes associated with exercise and maternal positioning as influenced by the cardiovascular system during pregnancy
- Relate physiologic responses to commonly observed cardiovascular signs occurring during pregnancy
- Outline the classification, findings and clinical signs of preeclampsia
- List key points in clinical management to address normal and abnormal maternal cardiovascular status in pregnancy

Content Outline

1. Maternal Physiologic Adaptations
 - 1.1 Hemodynamics changes occurring the antepartum period
 - 1.2 Total blood volume
 - 1.3 Red blood volume
 - 1.4 Plasma volume
 - 1.5 Cardiac output and stroke volume
 - 1.6 Systemic vascular resistance
 - 1.7 Regional blood flow
 - 1.8 Pulmonary blood flow
 - 1.9 Impact upon heart rate & blood pressure
 - 1.10 Changes in oxygen consumption
 - 1.11 Alterations in physical findings
 - 1.12 Heart sounds
 - 1.13 Chest radiography
 - 1.14 Electrocardiography
 - 1.15 Echocardiograms
2. Impact of the Intrapartum and Postpartum Period
 - 2.1 Impact of pain
 - 2.2 Impact of maternal positioning
 - 2.3 Changes occurring in the immediate post delivery period
 - 2.4 Transitional change beyond one week
3. Clinical Implications During Pregnancy
 - 3.1 Maternal arrhythmias
 - 3.2 Supine hypotensive syndrome
 - 3.3 Influence of exercise
 - 3.4 Impact of multiple pregnancies

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 9, The Cardiovascular System, Maternal, Fetal & Physiology: A Clinical Perspective, Blackburn, et al., Saunders, Elsevier, St. Louis, 2007, pages 267-287.