

Parturition Physiology

Objectives

- Identify morphologic changes in the reproductive tract during pregnancy
- Discuss the determinants of the timing of labor
- Review the role of hormones in the control of labor
- Outline the mechanical and hormonal aspects of myometrial contractility in labor
- Explain the significance of the remodeling functions of the cervix during pregnancy and labor

Content Outline

1. Morphology of the Reproductive Tract
 - A. Uterus
 - B. Cervix
2. Timing and Diagnosis of Labor
 - A. Genetic
 - B. Hormonal
3. Hormonal Control of Labor
 - A. Fetal Hypothalamic- Pituitary-Adrenal Axis
 - B. Progesterone
 - C. Estrogens
 - D. Prostaglandins
 - E. Oxytocin
4. Myometrial Contractility
 - A. Uterine electrical activity
 - B. Mechanics of myometrial contractions
 - C. Hormonal regulation
5. Cervical Remodeling in Pregnancy and Labor
 - A. Softening
 - B. Ripening
 - C. Dilation

Reading Material Resources

Module WB2215: Parturition Physiology is based on the resource listed below. A copy of the resource is included with the module.

Chapter 6 Physiology of Parturition, Maternal Fetal Medicine, Creasy et al., Elsevier, 2019, 81-95