Fundamental Concepts of Electronic Fetal Monitoring

Objectives

- Describe general principles of acid base physiology in electronic fetal monitoring
- Review oxygenation in normal labor
- Summarize basic features and patterns of electronic fetal monitoring tracings
- Compare and contrast the different category classifications for interpretations of electronic fetal monitoring tracings
- Distinguish when structured intermittent auscultation and continuous fetal monitoring should be used
- Discuss specific tracing findings and resultant management strategies

Content Outline

1. Physiology of Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring
   - A. Acid base physiology
   - B. Oxygenation in normal labor
   - C. Basic fetal adaptive responses

2. Intrapartum Fetal Monitoring
   - A. Electronic fetal monitoring features and patterns
     1. Baseline
     2. Variability
     3. Contraction patterns
   - B. Periodic Changes
     1. Early
     2. Late
     3. Variable
     4. Prolonged
     5. Sinusoidal

3. Type of monitoring
   - A. Intermittent auscultation
   - B. Continuous electronic fetal monitoring

4. Category Classification and Management
   - A. Category I
   - B. Category II
   - C. Category III

5. Specific Tracing Findings and Management
   - A. Fetal bradycardia and tachycardia
   - B. Management of minimal and marked variability
   - C. Management of early, variable, late and prolonged decelerations
   - D. Significance of sinusoidal patterns

Reading Material Resources- Page 2

Reading Material Resources

Module WB2310: Fundamental Concepts of Electronic Fetal Monitoring is based on the resources listed below. A copy of each resource is included with the module.

Physiology of Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring, Heuser, Cara, Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology, Volume 63, Number 3, 607-615

Intrapartum Fetal Monitoring, Arnold, et al., American Family Physician, Volume 102, Number 3, August 1, 2020, 158-167