

The Birthing Process

Content Outline

1. Stages of Labor
 - A. First stage
 - B. Second stage
2. Labor Curves
 - A. Normal
 - B. Abnormal
3. Dysfunctional Labor Patterns
 - A. Prolonged labor
 - B. Protracted labor or fetal descent
 - C. Arrest disorders
 - D. Precipitate labor
4. Active Management of the Third Stage of Labor
5. Induction of Labor
 - A. Mechanical
 1. Balloon catheters
 2. Cervical dilators
 3. Amniotomy
 - B. Pharmacologic
 1. Oxytocin
 2. Prostaglandins

Objectives

- Compare and contrast the characteristics of the stages of labor
- Interpret and discuss significance of labor curves
- Summarize management approaches for dysfunctional labor patterns
- Review the active management of the third stage of labor
- Identify the indications for induction of labor and its management
- Describe the mechanical and pharmacologic methods for induction of labor

Reading Material Resources

Module WB2447: The Birthing Process is based on the resources listed below. A copy of each resource is included with the module.

Excerpt from Labor and Delivery, Rodriguez, et al., Physician Assistant Clinics 7, (2022), 566-572

Cervical Ripening and Induction of Labor, Wheeler, et al., American Family Physician, 105 (2), 2022, 177-186

Clinical evaluation of labor: an evidenced and experienced-based approach, Cohen, et al., Journal of Perinatal Medicine, 49 (3), 2021, 241-253