Objectives

- Discuss the morphologic changes in reproductive tract during pregnancy.
- Review the different influences on the timing of labor.
- Summarize hormonal control of labor.
- Describe the nature of myometrial contractility in labor.
- Identify the remodeling functions of the cervix during pregnancy and labor.

Content Outline

1. Morphology of the Reproductive Tract
   1.1 Uterus
   1.2 Cervix

2. Timing of Labor
   2.1 Diagnosis
   2.2 Genetic
   2.3 Hormonal

3. Hormonal Control of Labor
   3.1 Fetal Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal Axis
   3.2 Progesterone
   3.3 Estrogens
   3.4 Prostaglandins
   3.5 Oxytocin

4. Myometrial Contractility
   4.1 Uterine electrical activity
   4.2 Mechanics of myometrial contractions
   4.3 Hormonal regulation

5. Cervical Remodeling in Pregnancy and Labor
   5.1 Softening
   5.2 Ripening
   5.3 Dilatation

Reading Material Resources

Module WB1727: Biology of Parturition is based on the resources listed below. A copy of the resources are included with the module.