

OBSTETRIC TERMINOLOGY

Self Learning Packet



Obstetric Terminology

- Amenorrhea – suppression or absence of menstruation
- Quickening – first movements of fetus felt by the mother (18-20 weeks)
- Funic Souffle – Hissing sound synchronous with fetal heart beat and considered produced by the umbilical cord.
- Uterine Souffle – heard when auscultating abdomen over the uterus; maternal blood pulsating through the placenta; synchronous with the maternal pulse

Obstetric Terminology

- Gestation — number of weeks since first day of last menstrual period
- Abortion — birth that occurs before the end of 20 weeks gestation
- Fetal Demise - death of a fetus
- Term — normal duration of pregnancy (38 to 42 weeks)

Obstetric Terminology

- Antepartum — time between conception and the onset of labor; prenatal period
- Intrapartum — time from onset of true labor until birth of infant and placenta
- Postpartum — time from birth of infant until woman's body returns to pre-pregnant condition

Obstetric Terminology

- Preterm or premature labor-labor that occurs before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy
- Postterm labor—labor that occurs after 42 weeks gestation
- Stillbirth—infant born deceased after 20 weeks gestation

Obstetric Terminology

Gravida — any pregnancy, regardless of duration, including present pregnancy

The term is used for GYN purposes to generally define the # of times pregnant (multiples, i.e. twins, triplets, etc. count as one pregnancy)

- Nulligravida — has never been pregnant and is currently not pregnant
- Primigravida — pregnant for the 1st time
- Multigravida — woman who has had two or more pregnancies

Obstetric Terminology

Parity (para) — The number of pregnancies in which the fetus or fetuses have reached 20 wks gestation.

refers to pregnancy, not number of fetuses born. So twins are 1 delivery, defined as para 1

- Nulliparous —no births at > 20 wks gestation
- Primiparous —one birth at > 20 wks gestation
- Multiparous —two or more births at > 20 wks

**A pregnancy that ends before the end of 20 weeks gestation is considered an abortion, whether its spontaneous or induced. Not counted using the G/P system.*

**A stillborn fetus that reaches 20 wks gestation is counted using the G/P system*

Obstetric Terminology

GTPAL—acronym for detailed recording of OB history

5 digit system: **G**ravida, **T**erm, **P**reterm, **A**bstortion, **L**iving

- **G** is the number of times pregnant
(multiples, i.e. twins, triplets, etc. count as 1 pregnancy)
- **T** is the number of term births
(multiples born at term each count as a birth)
- **P** is the number of premature births (from 20 to 37 weeks gestation)
(multiples born preterm each count as a birth)
- **A** is the number of pregnancies ending in abortion
(includes elective abortion, miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy)
- **L** is the number of living children

Obstetric Terminology Continued..

- G/P- used for summarizing the obstetric history

2 digit system:

Gravida and Para

Labor Terms

- Bloody Show – discharge of blood tinged mucous from the cervix as labor begins
- Effacement – thinning and shortening measurement of the cervix
 - example: (the cervix is 100% effaced)

Abnormal Labor Patterns:

- Protracted – slow rate of progress
- Prolonged – long span of time for progress to occur
- Arrested – progress stops

Commonly Used Abbreviations

- AGA – appropriate for gestational age
- AMA – advanced maternal age
- AROM – artificial rupture of membranes
- C/S – cesarean section
- CNM – certified nurse midwife
- CPD – cephalopelvic disproportion
- Ctx - contractions
- EBL – estimated blood loss
- EDB – estimated Date of Birth
- EDC – estimated Date of Confinement
- EDD – estimated Date of Delivery
- EFM – electronic fetal Monitor
- FHR – fetal heart rate
- FHS – fetal heart sounds
- FHT – fetal heart Tones
- FOB – father of baby
- GBS – Group B strep
- GTPAL – pregnancy history - # gravida/ # term/ # pre-term/ # abortions/
living
- IUFD – intrauterine fetal demise

Commonly Used Abbreviations

- LGA – large for gestational age
- LMP – last menstrual period
- MLE – midline episiotomy
- NB – newborn
- NST – Non-stress test
- NSVD – normal spontaneous vaginal delivery
- PN – prenatal
- PROM – premature rupture of membranes
- PTL – preterm labor
- ROM – rupture of membranes
- ROS – review of systems
- SGA – small for gestational age
- SRM – spontaneous rupture of membranes
- SVD – spontaneous vaginal delivery
- VBAC – vaginal birth after cesarean
- VE – vaginal exam
- Vtx – vertex