

Name: _____

Class Prep – Fetal Monitoring

Using your textbook (pp. 355-373, 383-385) and the provided PowerPoint, answer the following questions.

1. What are common causes of fetal tachycardia?
Maternal fever or infection, fetal anemia, response to medications (atropine, hydroxyzine, terbutaline, illicit drugs), maternal hyperthyroidism, abnormalities involving fetal cardiac pacemakers/ cardiac conduction systems.
2. What causes late decelerations?
A reflex fetal response to transient hypoxemia during uterine contractions that reduces the delivery of oxygenated blood to the intervillous space of the placenta or direct hypoxia myocardial depression during a contraction.
3. What causes variable decelerations?
Compression of blood vessels in the umbilical cord, with or without uterine contractions.
4. What is the cause of early decelerations?
Transient fetal head compression
5. What are accelerations a response to?
Fetal movement or spontaneous: transient compression of umbilical vein leading to decreased fetal venous return and rise in heart rate.
6. What is the normal range for the fetal heart rate?
110-160 bpm
7. What category tracing (I, II, or III) clearly indicates a fetus in distress?
Category III
8. What equipment is used to evaluate contractions with external monitoring?
Ultrasound, tocodynamometer, and tocotransducer
9. What fetal heart pattern is the most concerning?
Absent variability
10. What is the most important indicator of fetal status?
variability