

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?

Interruption of fetal oxygenation, fetal cardiac arrhythmias, maternal fever, infection, parasympatholytic drugs, maternal hyperthyroidism, Fetal anemia, Drugs (cocaine, caffeine, etc)

2. What causes late decelerations?

Reflex fetal responses to transient hypoxemia during a uterine contraction that reduces the delivery of oxygenated blood to the intervillous space of the placenta.

3. What causes variable decelerations?

Compression of the blood vessels in the umbilical cord and can occur with or w/o contractions

4. What is the cause of early decelerations?

Transient fetal head compression, contractions, vaginal exam, fundal pressure, reduced oxygenated blood

5. What are accelerations a response to?

Things like compression of the umbilical vein and fetal movement cause significant interruption of fetal oxygenation, therefore fetal oxygenation is not occurring

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?

Tocotransducer, tocodynamometer and ultrasound device

9. What fetal heart pattern is the most concerning?

Absent variability

10. What is the most important indicator of fetal status?

Variability