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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

Maternal fever, infection, fetal anemia

Response to certain drugs such as atropine, hydroxyzine, terbutaline, OR illicit drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamines

Coffee

Fetal cardiac arrhythmias

2. What causes late decelerations?

begins after the contraction has started.

caused by a reflex fetal response to transient hypoxia during a UC that restricts the delivery of oxygenated blood to the placenta.

3. What causes variable decelerations?

Caused by compression of blood vessels in the umbilical cord and can occur with or without UCs.

4. What is the cause of early decelerations?

transient fetal head compression and it is considered a normal finding.

5. What are accelerations a response to?

Their presence is highly indicative of normal fetal acid balance.

6. What is the normal range for the fetal heart rate?

110-160bpm

7. What category tracing (I, II, or III) clearly indicates a fetus in distress?

III

8. What equipment is used to evaluate contractions with external monitoring?

External tocodynamometer

9. What fetal heart pattern is the most concerning?

Absent variability

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