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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?

Maternal fever, maternal infection, or fetal anemia, or in response to meds

2. What causes late decelerations?

Reflex fetal response to transient hypoxemia

3. What causes variable decelerations?

Compression of the blood vessels in the umbilical cord

4. What is the cause of early decelerations?

transient fetal head compression

5. What are accelerations a response to?

Fetal movement

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?

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

Internal or external electronic monitors

9. What fetal heart pattern is the most concerning?

Baseline bradycardia

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

Presence of normal beat to beat