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Class Prep – Fetal Monitoring

Using your textbook (pp. 356-373, 383-385) and the provided PowerPoint, answer the following questions.

1. What are common causes of fetal tachycardia?

Common causes of fetal tachycardia are caused from early signs of poor oxygenation, fever, infection, fetal anemia, illicit drugs or in response to medications.

2. What causes late decelerations?

Late decelerations are caused by reflex fetal response to transient hypoxemia. This reduces oxygenated blood to the placenta.

3. What causes variable decelerations?

Variable decelerations can be a result of a few different things such as the oxygen supply to the fetus or metabolic acidosis. It also can be caused by fetal vagal response to the umbilical cord stretching or head compression.

4. What is the cause of early decelerations?

The causes of early decelerations are uterine contraction, vaginal examination, fundal pressure or placement of internal mode of monitoring.

5. What are accelerations a response to?

Accelerations are in response to fetal movement.

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

The normal range for the fetal heart rate is 110-160 beats/ min.

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

Category III clearly indicates a fetus in distress.

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

An ultrasound transducer monitors the fetal heart rate using high frequency sound waves. This is a noninvasive external monitoring type. A tocotransducer is used to monitor frequency and duration of a contraction.

9. What fetal heart pattern is the most concerning?

The most concerning fetal pattern is bradycardia.

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