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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?

Interruption of fetal oxygenation, response to medication/illicit drugs, maternal fever, infection, or fetal anemia

2. What causes late decelerations?

A reflex fetal response to transient hypoxemia during uterine contraction

3. What causes variable decelerations?

The compression of 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?

They can be a response to fetal movement, no interruption of fetal oxygenation, normal fetal acid-base balance, compression of the umbilical vein

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

110-160 beats per minute

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

Category 3

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

Ultrasound transducer

9. What fetal heart pattern is the most concerning?

Late decelerations

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

Uterine contractions