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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 oxygenation (late deceleration / minimal / absent variability)
 - Maternal fever / infection • Fetal anemia • Maternal hyperthyroidism
2. What causes late decelerations?
Uteroplacental Insufficiency
3. What causes variable decelerations?
Cord compression
4. What is the cause of early decelerations?
Head Compression
5. What are accelerations a response to?
Fetal movement or spontaneous. Vibroacoustic stimulation.
Interruption to fetal oxygenation not happening.
6. What is the normal range for the fetal heart rate?
110-160
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
9. What fetal heart pattern is the most concerning?
Category III patterns - sinusoidal or absent variability with recurrent late / variable deceleration, or w/ bradycardia
Prolonged deceleration
10. What is the most important indicator of fetal status?
FHR to UC