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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?

   Fetal hypoxemia, maternal fever or illness, fetal anemia, or due to certain medications like atropine, or due to drugs like cocaine.

2. What causes late decelerations?

   Due to transient hypoxemia (brain not receiving enough O2 for a period of time) during a uterine contraction, delivery of oxygenated blood to the intervillous space of placenta is reduced

3. What causes variable decelerations?

   Due to compression of the blood vessels in the umbilical cord with or without a uterine contraction

4. What is the cause of early decelerations?

   Cause is head compression due to uterine contraction, vaginal exam, fundal pressure, placement of internal mode of monitoring

5. What are accelerations a response to?

   Spontaneous fetal movement, vaginal exam, uterine contraction

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?

   Category III

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

   Tocotransducer

9. What fetal heart pattern is the most concerning?

   Prolonged Deceleration

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

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Fetal Heart Rate