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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?

Some common causes of fetal tachycardia are asphyxia, anemia, dehydration, trauma, infection and fetal distress.

2. What causes late decelerations?

Late decelerations are caused by uteroplacental insufficiency. This is where the placenta fails to provide sufficient oxygen during contractions.

3. What causes variable decelerations?

Variable decelerations are caused by umbilical cord compression.

4. What is the cause of early decelerations?

Early decelerations are normal and occur during head compression during contractions

5. What are accelerations a response to?

Accelerations are a response to healthy wellbeing of the baby during fetal movement and stimulation.

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

The normal range for the fetal heart rate is between 110 to 160 beats per min. The fetal heart rate is obtained by measuring the average rate during a 10-minute segment that includes at least 2 minutes of interpretable baseline data

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

Category III clearly indicates a fetus that is in distress.

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

The equipment used to evaluate contractions with external monitoring is a tocotransducer.

9. What is the most concerning fetal heart rate pattern?

The most concerning fetal heart rate pattern is late decelerations with absent variability.

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

The most important indicator of fetal status is variability.