

## OB Common Terms/Abbreviations with Definitions

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**Antepartum**-Occurring or existing before birth

**Intrapartum**-The time period spanning childbirth, from the onset of labor through the delivery of the placenta

**Postpartum**-Following childbirth

**Uterus**-hollow, pear-shaped organ that is located in a woman's lower abdomen, between the bladder and rectum

- **Myometrium**-middle layer of uterus is muscular tissue that expands during pregnancy to hold the growing fetus and contracts during labor to deliver the child
- **Upper uterine segment**-Main portion of the body of the gravid uterus, the contraction of which furnishes the chief force of expulsion in labor
- **Lower uterine segment**-The inferior portion or isthmus of the uterus, the lower extremity of which joins with the cervical canal and, during pregnancy, expands to become the lower portion of the uterine cavity

**Cervix**-lowest region of the uterus that attaches the uterus to the vagina and provides a passage between the vaginal cavity and the uterine cavity

- **Internal os**-Opening of the innermost side of cervical canal near the baby
- **External os**-Opening on the outermost side of the cervical canal to the vagina.

**Fetal membranes**-amnion and chorion membranes, which make up the amniotic sac that surround and protect the fetus

**Dilation**-Opening of the cervix

**Effacement**-Refers to the thinning of the cervix

**Uterine fundus**-Upper rounded extremity of the uterus above the openings of the fallopian tubes.

**Introitus**-Vaginal introitus is the opening that leads to the vaginal canal

**BTL**-Bilateral Tubal Ligation is a surgical procedure that creates permanent contraception. BTL severs the fallopian tubes, preventing sperm from meeting egg. Often referred to as having your "tubes tied"

**EFM**-Electronic fetal monitoring

**Tocodynamometer**-Medical device used to measure the frequency and duration of uterine contractions. Consists of a pressure transducer that is placed over the fundus of the uterus

**IUPC**-Internal uterine pressure catheter-Device placed into the uterus next to the fetus during labor to measure the strength of the contractions

**FSE**-Device placed just under the skin on the presenting part of the fetus whilst in-utero to assess fetal heart rate pattern

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**FHR**-Fetal heart rate

**Fetal Engagement**-When widest part of the baby's presenting part enters the pelvic brim or inlet. A first baby often engages two weeks before birth. Subsequent babies may not engage until transition phase or Stage 2.

**EDC**-Estimated Date of Confinement or due date. This is an older term, though still used. The origin of the word referred to the period of pregnancy when an upper-class, noble or royal woman would withdraw from society to be confined to their rooms with midwives, ladies-in-waiting and female family members only to attend them

**EDD**-Estimated Due Date or Due date describes the estimated delivery date for a pregnant woman

**EBL**- Estimated Blood Loss is estimated blood loss during a procedure. It is often inaccurate and underestimated

**QBL**-Quantitative Blood Loss is weight based measurement of blood loss which involves subtracting dry weights of blood-soaked pads, linens, sponges to more accurately determine blood loss

**ROM**-Rupture of Membranes is a term used to describe a rupture of the amniotic sac. May also be referred to as one's "water breaking"

- **SROM**-Spontaneous Rupture of Membranes describes the normal, spontaneous rupture of the membranes at full term
- **AROM**-Artificial Rupture of membranes describes the rupture of the membranes by a third party, usually the provider to induce or accelerate labor
- **PROM**-Premature Rupture of Membranes describes a rupture of the membranes that occurs before 37 weeks gestation
- **PPROM**- Preterm Premature Rupture of Membranes describes a rupture of membranes that occurs before 37 weeks gestation

**GDM**-Gestational Diabetes Mellitus is defined as any degree of glucose intolerance with onset or first recognition during pregnancy

**IDDM**-Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus

**IDM**-Infant of a diabetic mother; these infants are at risk for having macrosomia, hypoglycemia, respiratory distress syndrome, polycythemia, hyperbilirubinemia, risk of birth defects and a higher risk of stillbirth or miscarriage

**PPH**-Postpartum hemorrhage is an obstetric emergency that is one of the five top causes of maternal mortality