



Case Study 130

Name _____ Class/Group _____ Date _____

Group Members _____

► Scenario

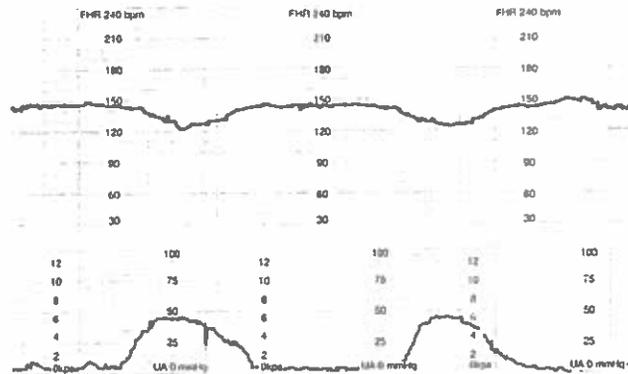
You are the charge nurse working in labor and delivery at a local hospital. D.H. comes to the unit having contractions and feeling somewhat uncomfortable. You take her to the intake room to provide privacy, have her change into a gown, and ask her three initial questions to determine your next course of action—that is, whether to do a vaginal examination or to continue asking her more questions.

1. What three initial questions will you ask, and why?
2. D.H. has contractions 2 to 3 minutes apart and lasting 45 seconds. It is her third pregnancy (gravida 3, para 2002). Her bag of waters is intact at this time. You determine that it is appropriate to ask for further information before a vaginal examination is done. What information do you need?
3. What assessment should you make to gain further information from D.H.?

PART 2 PEDIATRIC, MATERNITY, AND WOMEN'S HEALTH CASES

4. On examination, D.H. is 80% effaced and 4 cm dilated. The fetal heart rate (FHR) is 150 beats/min and regular. She is admitted to a labor and delivery room on the unit. What nursing measures should be done at this time?

5. As part of your assessment, you review the fetal heart strip pictured here. What will you do?



6. List the stages of labor. D.H. is in what stage of labor?

7. D.H. states that she is feeling discomfort and asks you whether there is alternative therapy available before taking medication. List at least four alternative methods to assist D.H. with controlling her discomfort.

8. As you assess both D.H. and the fetus during the active stage of labor, you will look for abnormalities. Which of these are potential abnormalities during labor? Select all that apply.
- a. Unusual bleeding
 - b. Brown or greenish amniotic fluid
 - c. Contractions that last 40 to 70 seconds
 - d. Sudden, severe pain
 - e. Increased maternal fatigue

CASE STUDY PROGRESS

Although D.H. continues to use alternative therapies for discomfort, she asks for pain medication and receives a dose of meperidine (Demerol). Three hours later, D.H. is lying on her back, and during contractions you notice a few late decelerations of the FHR. You stay with D.H. to monitor her and her fetus and immediately call for someone to notify the primary care provider.

9. Put these actions in order of priority:
- _____ a. Discontinue the oxytocin infusion.
 - _____ b. Turn D.H. onto her left side and elevate her legs.
 - _____ c. Increase the rate of the maintenance IV fluids.
 - _____ d. Administer oxygen at 8 to 10L/min by facemask.
10. Decelerations occur in an early, variable, or late pattern. What is the significance of these patterns? State what the nurse should do for each type.
-  11. As you monitor D.H., you observe for prolapse of the umbilical cord. Describe what this is and what can happen to the fetus if this occurs.
12. What would be done if you were to note that D.H. has a prolapsed cord?

CASE STUDY OUTCOME

D.H. and her newborn baby boy are taken to the maternity unit where she begins to breastfeed him.