

Amniotic Fluid Embolism (AFE)

AFE is a rare obstetric emergency in which the amniotic fluid and fetal debris enter the maternal circulation, triggering a massive anaphylactic reaction.

Risk Factors: Hypoxia, massive hemorrhage, uterine atony, disseminated intravascular coagulation

Signs and Symptoms: Dyspnea, labored breathing, altered mental status, severe hypotension, rapid/abnormal heart rate, seizures, cyanosis around mouth and peripherally, fetal bradycardia, pulmonary edema, uterine atony, severe hemorrhage, cardiac arrest

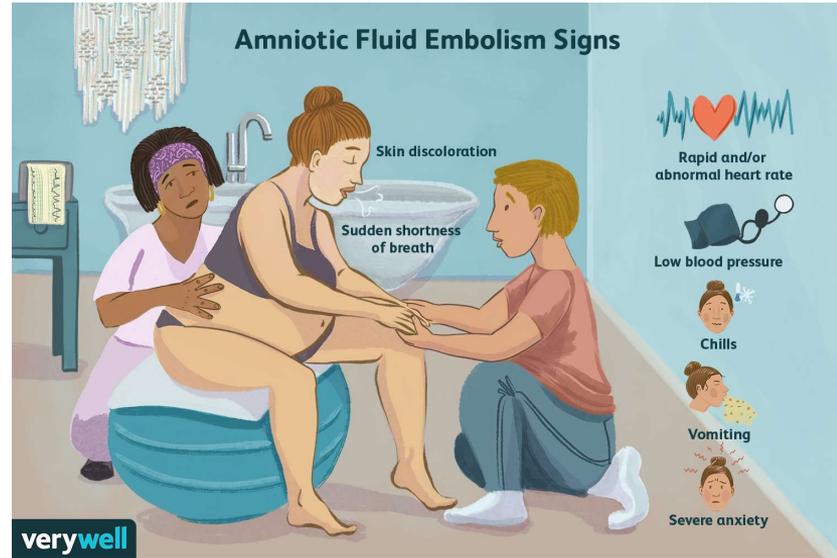
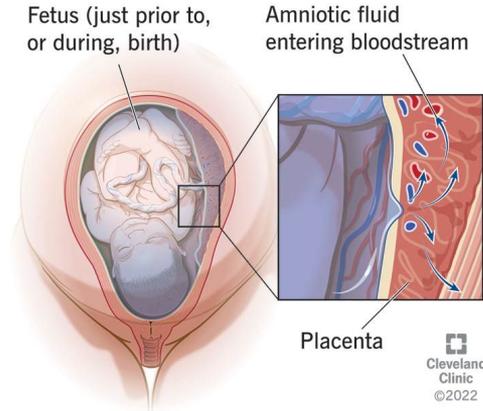
According to the National Library of Medicine “Diagnosing AFE relies on clinical judgment, as there is no specific test for confirmation.”

According to the Cleveland Clinic “Unfortunately, there’s no way to prevent amniotic fluid embolism. Healthcare providers are still unsure why AFE happens and what exactly causes this condition.”

Treatment: Administer O₂, initiate CPR, treat hypotension with crystalloids and blood products, arrange c-section if mother is unresponsive or severely hypotensive, ordering ABG’s, CBC, and coagulation, admit mother to ICU

Amniotic fluid embolism

Anaphylactic syndrome of pregnancy



References:

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