

Obstetrical Disorders

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Outline

- General Concepts
- Pregnancy-related disorders
- Trauma in the pregnant patient
- Complications during labor and delivery



Rule #1

- Exclude pregnancy in all patients between 10-55 except those with a hysterectomy.
- “I can’t be pregnant” that can be pregnant
 - Tubal ligation
 - Regular menses



Rule #2

- All pregnancies are ECTOPICS until proven otherwise
- Previous Pregnancy History
 - 15-17% recurrence rate of ectopic pregnancies



Rule #3

- Fetal heart tones (FHT) are a vital sign in a pregnant patient.



History Pearls

- Previous Pregnancy History
 - 15-17% recurrence rate of ectopic pregnancies
- LMP wrong in 50% of cases



Physical Exam

- VS changes in pregnancy
 - HR **increases** 15–20/min
 - Systolic BP ↓ 5–10 mmHg, diastolic 10–15
- Fetal Heart Tones are a vital sign – Rule #3
- Focus on abdominal and pelvic exam
- Gestational age:
 - 12 weeks uterus just rising out of the pelvic, fetal heart tones
 - 20 weeks fundus at umbilicus



Diagnostic Evaluation

- Pregnancy test
 - Whole blood can be used for commercial POC urine tests!
- CBC, Coags
- Rh type and/or Type and Screen
- UA and culture
- Pelvic exam swabs for cultures
 - GC, Chlamydia, HSV, Wet Prep



Radiographic Studies and Pregnancy

American College of Radiology:

“...no single diagnostic test results in radiation doses that threaten the well-being of the developing embryo or fetus”



Radiology Tests

- >100 Rads = CNS abnormalities
- >10 Rads = Reduction of fetal growth potential
 - Chest X-ray 0.02 - 0.07 mrad
 - Abdominal KUB 100 mrad
 - Hip X-ray, single view, 200 mrad
 - CT head <1 rad
 - CT abdomen/pelvis 3.5 rad



Radiology Tests

- **NEVER** withhold imaging if clinically indicated
- **ALWAYS** shield the abdomen if possible



Pharmacology During Pregnancy



Pharmacology in Pregnancy

- All drugs cross placenta to some degree
- Key factor in determining teratogenicity is fetal EGA at exposure
 - Organogenesis (18–60 days post conception)



Pharmacology in Pregnancy

- FDA categories
 - A= controlled studies show no human risk
 - B= no evidence of risk to humans
 - C=risk cannot be ruled out
 - D=positive evidence of risk
 - X=contraindicated in pregnancy



“Safe Drugs”

- Antibiotics
 - Penicillins, cephalosporins, macrolides, nitrofurantoin
- Analgesics – acetaminophen and opiates
- Antiemetics
- Antihypertensives
 - Labetalol, hydralazine
 - Exceptions – ACE inhibitors, diuretics



Red Flag Drugs

- Anticonvulsants
 - most are teratogenic but must control seizures
- ACE inhibitors
- Corticosteroids
- Oral anticoagulants
- NSAIDs
 - Premature closure of ductus arteriosus



First Trimester Pregnancy-Related Conditions

Ectopic Pregnancy

- **Rule #2** – all pregnancies are ectopics...
- 95% fallopian tubes
- 17.4/1000 pregnancies
- 50% missed at 1st office visit
- 36% at 1st ED visit
- 3–5 % rate with gonadotropin therapy



Ectopic Pregnancy Risk Factors

- History of prior ectopic – 7 fold increased risk
- PID – 6 fold increased risk
- Assisted reproduction
- IUD
- Smoking
- Recent elective abortion
- Older age



Ectopic Pregnancy Presentation

- Symptoms
 - Unilateral abdominal pain, amenorrhea
 - Vaginal bleeding
- Physical exam
 - Unilateral adnexal tenderness
- Upon rupture, syncope, severe pain, and hypotension may be present



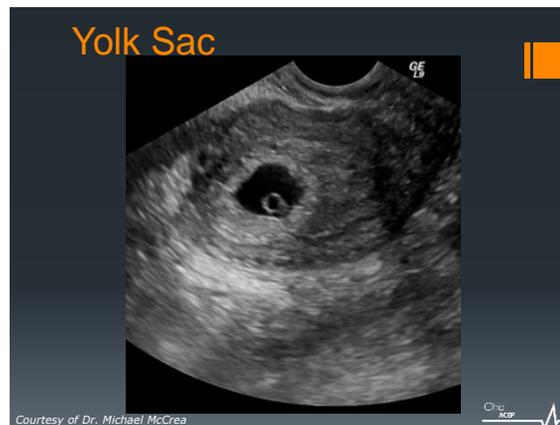
Ectopic Pregnancy Diagnosis

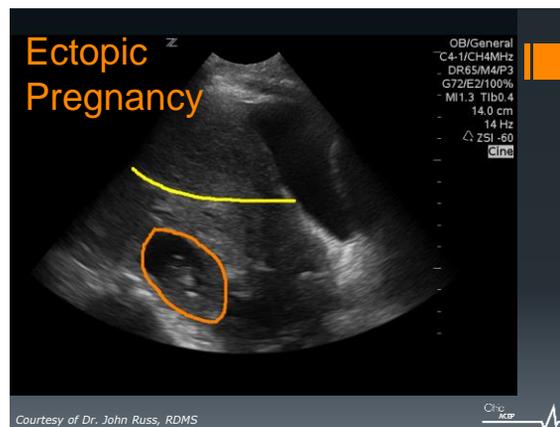
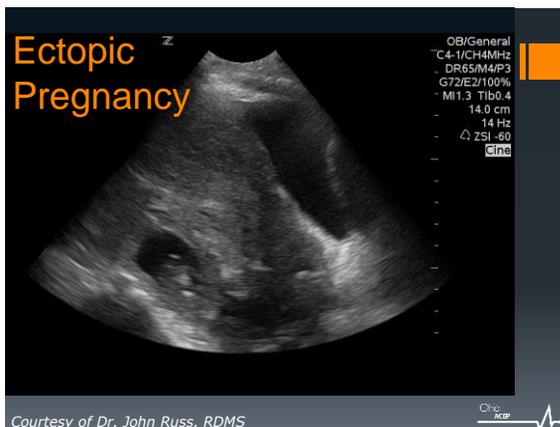
- Positive hCG
- hCG normally doubles every 1–3 days for first 6 weeks
- Fall, plateau MAY indicate an abnormal pregnancy
- Ultrasound = test of choice



Ectopic Pregnancy Diagnosis

- Discriminatory Zone
 - hCG level above which you should see an IUP.
 - Depends on your hospital lab and US tech skills and machines
 - Transvaginal US – 1,500-2,000
 - Transabdominal US – 4,000-6,500





Ectopic Pregnancy Management

- Unstable patient
 - 2 large bore IV's
 - CBC, PT, PTT, platelets
 - Type and cross match
- Stable patient
 - Low suspicion and inconclusive testing
 - Outpatient follow up serial hCG and repeat ultrasound
- Treatment—Surgery vs. Medical



Ectopic Pregnancy Management

- Medical Treatment: Methotrexate
 - Stable patient with unruptured ectopic <4cm
 - Transient pelvic pain 3–7 days post therapy normal
 - Minimize # of pelvic exams



First Trimester Bleeding

- 50% spot or bleed in first trimester
- 20% miscarry
- Once FHT heard, risk of miscarriage drops
- Causes of miscarriage
 - Fetal causes – most chromosomal abnormalities
 - Maternal factors—DM, incompetent cervix, uterine abnormalities
 - 90% of couples can have normal delivery



First Trimester Bleeding

- Threatened miscarriage
 - Bleeding with normal pelvic exam, os closed
- Inevitable miscarriage
 - Os open with excessive or prolonged bleeding
- Incomplete miscarriage
 - Some POC remain
- Complete miscarriage
 - All POC expelled
- Missed miscarriage
 - IUFD without expulsion of POC



First Trimester Bleeding

- Labs CBC, quant hCG , type and screen
- Rhogam for all Rh negative mothers
- Rho D immunoglobulin
 - Rh(d) antigen fully expressed at 30 days EGA
 - 25 µg/cc transfused fetal blood required for maternal sensitization (Kleihauer-Betke)
 - Standard dose 300 µg IM within 72 hrs of event
 - If untreated, 1st trimester miscarriage carries 2-3% risk of sensitization for subsequent pregnancies



Septic Abortion

- Retained POCs from missed or incomplete miscarriage
 - Polymicrobial
 - Bleeding, cramping, fever, nausea, malaise
 - Purulent discharge
 - Boggy, tender, enlarged uterus
- Treatment
 - Admission
 - Antibiotics—amp, gent, clinda
 - D & C



Hemorrhagic Corpus Luteum

- Normally corpus luteum persists until end of 1st trimester
 - 3-4 cm mass in adnexa
- May hemorrhage into itself or it may rupture → presentation may mimic ectopic
- Diagnosis by ultrasound



Uterine Incarceration

- Late first trimester – retroverted uterus
- Presentation
 - Rare
 - Severe rectal pressure and back pain
 - Urinary obstruction
 - Cervical prolapse
- Treatment
 - Knee flexed position with rectal or vaginal manipulation under general anesthesia



Hyperemesis Gravidarum

- Not just “bad morning sickness”
- Nausea and vomiting with
 - Weight loss with persistent vomiting → hypokalemia
 - Dehydration → ketonuria



Hyperemesis Gravidarum

- IV hydration
- Antiemetics
 - Class A doxylamine/pyridoxine
 - Class B metoclopramide, prochlorperazine, ondansetron
 - Class C promethazine but no known harm
- Glucose to break ketosis
- Pyridoxine (B6)
- Ginger



Second and Third Trimester Related Conditions



Eclampsia/Preeclampsia Etiology

- BP >140/90 with proteinuria
- >20 weeks gestation, <4 weeks post partum
 - Earlier in trophoblastic disease
- Occurs in 7% of pregnancies



Eclampsia/Preeclampsia Presentation

- Proteinuria, edema, hypertension
- Severe
 - SBP >160, DBP >110
 - Oliguria <40cc/hr
 - Cerebral or visual disturbances
 - Pulmonary edema
 - Cyanosis
- Eclampsia = seizures



Eclampsia/Preeclampsia Diagnostic Evaluation

- Fetal heart tones (Rule 3)
- CBC with peripheral smear
- Electrolytes
- LFTs



HELLP Syndrome

- Hemolysis
 - abnormal peripheral smear, schistocytes, burr cells
- Elevated Liver Function Tests
 - LDH > 600, Bili > 1.2, AST > 72
- Low Platelets
 - Less than 100,000



Eclampsia/Preeclampsia Management

- Immediate obstetric consultation
 - Emergent delivery is definitive therapy
 - Hypertension controlled with
 - HYDRALAZINE
 - LABETOLOL
 - Sodium nitroprusside
 - Diuretics are contraindicated



Eclampsia/Preeclampsia Management

- Seizures = magnesium sulfate
 - 4–6 g over 15 min, then 2–3 g/hr
 - Monitor deep tendon reflexes, urine output, respiratory rate, blood pressure and fetal heart tones
- Alternative treatment
 - Benzodiazepines and phenobarbital
 - Beware of fetal sedation if emergent delivery
 - Phenytoin – relative contraindication



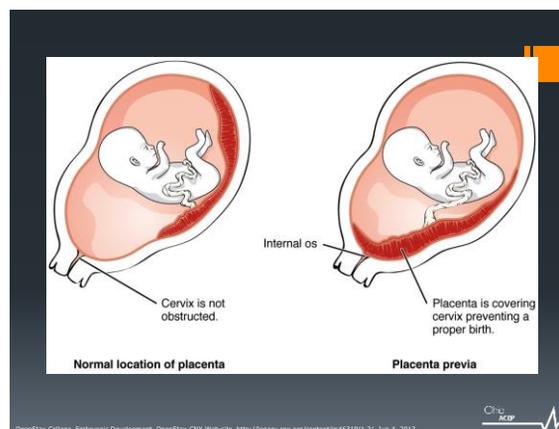
Case

- 27 year-old female with painless vaginal bleeding
 - Positive home pregnancy test, no prenatal care
 - About 20ish weeks by vague LMP
 - Prior C-section
 - Nontender abdominal exam with gravid uterus 3 cm above umbilicus



Placenta Previa Etiology

- Low implantation of placenta resulting in encroaching or covering of internal os
- 1:200 pregnancies



Placenta Previa Risk Factors

- Grand multiples
- Advanced maternal age
- Previous history of C-section delivery
- D&C
- Elective abortions
- History of placenta previa



Placenta Previa Evaluation

- **DO NOT VAGINALLY EXAMINE ANY PATIENT WITH LATE PREGNANCY BLEEDING.**
- Diagnosis by ultrasound but transabdominal US only by EP
 - OB may do a TV US



Placenta Previa Management

- Emergency Obstetric consultation
 - Focused on prep for C-section delivery
- 2 large bore IV's
- CBC, PT, PTT, platelets, Type and Cross
- Monitor fetal heart tones (Rule 3)



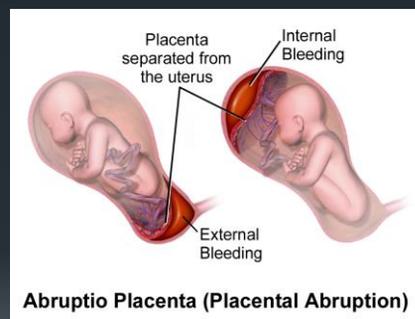
Case

- ▶ 37 year-old female 32 weeks pregnant with sudden onset of abdominal pain
 - Fell down 2 steps and now has severe abdominal pain
 - Presents with some vaginal bleeding



Abruptio Placenta Etiology

- Separation of placenta from site of uterine implantation



Wikimedia. Blausen.com staff. "Blausen gallery 2014". Wikiversity Journal of Medicine.



Abruptio Placenta Risk Factors

- Cocaine
- Smoking
- Trauma
- Pregnancy induced or chronic hypertension
- Previous history of placenta abruption



Abruptio Placenta Presentation

- **Painful** bleeding
- Occasionally bleeding may be absent
- Severe cases may develop disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)



Abruptio Placenta Evaluation

- **Ultrasound**
 - Don't waste time transporting the patient to radiology
- **Fetal monitoring**
- Truly a clinical diagnosis



Abruptio Placenta Treatment

- **Emergent** Obstetric consultation
- 2 large bore IV's
- CBC, PT, PTT, platelets
- Oxygen
- Type and cross
- Serum for fetal hemoglobin (Kleinhauer-Betke)
- Fibrinogen, fibrin split products



Gestational Trophoblastic Disease

- Hydatidiform mole (complete or partial)
- Persistent/invasive GTD
- Choriocarcinoma
- Placental site trophoblastic tumors
- Incidence: 1 / 1000 (US)



Gestational Trophoblastic Disease

- **Clinical presentation**
 - Vaginal bleeding
 - Enlarged uterus more than expected for dates
 - Pelvic pressure and pain
 - Theca lutein cysts
 - Anemia
 - **Hyperemesis gravidarum**
 - **Preeclampsia less than 20 weeks' gestational age**
 - Vaginal passage of hydropic vesicles



Gestational Trophoblastic Disease

- **Diagnosis**
 - B-hCG levels > 100,000
 - Ultrasound shows no fetal pole
 - "Bunch of grapes"
 - "Snowstorm"



Gestational Trophoblastic Disease



Wikimedia. Haggström, Mikael. "Medical gallery of Mikael Haggstrom 2014". *Wikiversity Journal of Medicine*.



Medical Complications During Pregnancy



Changes in Normal Physiology and Anatomy: Cardiac

- CO increases by 30–50%
- CVP decreases to 4 mmHg by 3rd trimester
- HR increases 15–20 BPM
- SBP decreases 5–10 mmHg and DBP decreases 10–15 mmHg with nadir at end of 2nd trimester
- Vena cava compression occurs in 10–15% of patients when laying supine and flat



Changes in Normal Physiology and Anatomy : Respiratory

- Maternal O₂ increases by 15–20%
- Persistent alkalemia after metabolic compensation (pCO₂ 27–32 mmHg)
- Decrease in FRC by 20–25%
- Earlier risk for hypoxemia



Changes in Normal Physiology and Anatomy: Laboratory

- Anemia (Hgb 10.2–11.6)
- Creatinine drops (>1.0 = abnormal)
- ESR markedly elevated
- Fibrinogen levels double
- pCO₂ 27–32 mmHg
- D-dimer elevated



Urinary Tract Infection

- Most common medical complication in pregnancy
- Presentation
 - Suprapubic pain
 - Dysuria
 - +/- hematuria
 - Frequency
- Diagnosis
 - Urinalysis
 - Urine Culture: *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*, *Proteus*



Urinary Tract Infection

- Treatment: 7-10 day course
- **Safe antibiotics** in pregnancy: cephalosporins, nitrofurantoin, penicillins, macrolides, clindamycin
- **Not safe antibiotics:** streptomycin, doxycycline, tetracycline, all quinolones



Pyelonephritis

- 1–2.5% occurrence in all pregnancies
- 10% of patients will have documented bacteremia
- Requires admission
- Treatment: cephalosporin first-line
- 10–20% recurrence rate during pregnancy



Thromboembolism

- A Leading cause of maternal mortality
- 1.8 relative risk vs. non-pregnant females
- 5.5 relative risk in postpartum period



Thromboembolism

- **Diagnosis**
 - D-dimer not helpful as elevated in normal pregnancy
 - DVT evaluation, helpful if positive
 - Radiographic testing – CT vs. V/Q
- **Treatment**
 - LMWH preferred over heparin
 - Coumadin contraindicated



Aortic Dissection

- A leading cause of maternal death
- Hormonal and hemodynamic weakening of intima and media layers
- TEE test of choice over
 - MRI must lay supine for prolonged time, stability
 - CT radiation to mom and fetus
- ACE Inhibitors contraindicated



Cardiac Disease

- Becoming more prevalent
- Increasing maternal age with increased cardiac risk factors
- Congenital heart disease patients reach adulthood and become pregnant



Cardiac Disease

- Presentation mimics normal pregnancy changes
 - Dyspnea
 - Fatigue
 - Edema
- Results in delayed diagnosis and treatment



Cardiac Disease

- BNP rises normally in pregnancy but >300 pg/ml is abnormal
- Treatment unchanged from non-pregnant patients except no ACE inhibitors or diuretics



Cardiac Dysrhythmias

- Increased risk over non-pregnant patients
- Adenosine safe for SVT
- Cardioversion, transcutaneous, transvenous pacing all safe but use as little energy/current as possible
- All other anti-dysrhythmics class C but avoid amiodarone if possible



Cardiac Arrest

- Displace uterus to the LEFT
- Chest compressions higher on the chest
- Expect a difficult airway
- No changes to defibrillation energy doses or medications in ALCS algorithms



Peri-mortem Cesarean Section

- Best chance of fetal survival is maternal resuscitation...
- Best chance of maternal survival is fetal delivery
 - 12 of 20 women had ROSC immediately after fetal delivery
 - 9 of 12 infants delivered within 5 minutes of maternal arrest had normal neurologic outcomes



Peri-mortem Cesarean Section

- Predictive values for success
 - EGA > 28 weeks
 - Less than 10 min from maternal death to delivery
 - Maternal cause of death not chronic hypoxia
 - Fetal status prior to maternal death
 - Quality of maternal resuscitation



Peri-mortem Cesarean Section

- After **FOUR minutes** of maternal arrest, i.e. two cycles of ACLS
- Goal of fetal delivery **FIVE minutes** after maternal arrest
- In other words, you have **ONE minute** to deliver the fetus



Peri-mortem Cesarean Section

- Classical vertical incision “stem to stern”
- Get baby out, clamp cord
- Now resuscitate mom and baby...



Pneumonia

- 1:2000 incidence
- Can be associated with preterm labor
- Varicella pneumonia
 - Rash followed by respiratory distress
 - Chest x-ray diffuse miliary or nodular infiltrates
 - Maternal mortality 11–33%



Asthma

- May worsen, improve, or remain stable during pregnancy
- Remember, PCO_2 levels fall in pregnancy, so a level of 40 in asthma indicates retention
- Treatment same as non-pregnant
 - Beta-agonists, magnesium safe in pregnancy
 - Risk-benefit with steroids as Class C/D



HIV in Pregnancy

- Vertical transmission rate 25–59%
- Risk of transmission ↑viral load and ↓CD4
- Multi-drug regimen decreases transmission
 - Minimum treatment with zidovudine (AZT)



Appendicitis

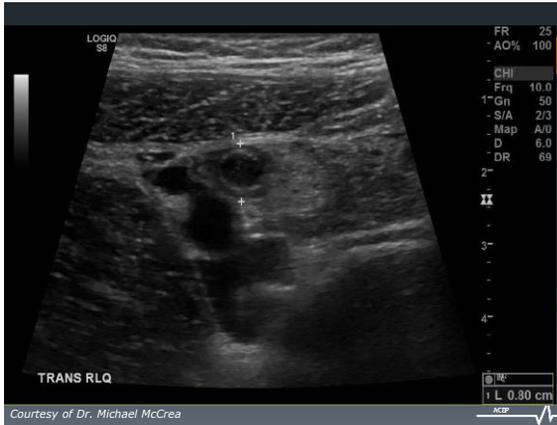
- No increased risk over non-pregnant population but increased morbidity secondary to frequently delayed and misdiagnosis
- Presentation
 - Difficult history – lower abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting
 - Normal WBC in pregnancy 12–15k
 - McBurney's point moves



Appendicitis

- Ultrasound initial test of choice
 - CT if needed, MRI becoming increasingly used
- Preterm labor frequent after surgery
- Don't wait too long to involve surgery
 - Perforation 2-3x more likely in pregnant patients
 - Fetal mortality 20 - 35% with perforation
 - Fetal mortality 0 - 1.5% without perforation





Cholecystitis

- 1:1000 pregnancies
- Clinical presentation again clouded by pregnancy – heartburn, nausea, food intolerance
- Diagnosis by ultrasound
- Treatment
 - Conservative with delayed surgery if possible
 - IV hydration, NPO, Antibiotics
 - 2nd trimester ideal if surgery is needed



Bowel Obstruction

- Occurs in third trimester or post-partum
- No differences in presentation
- Prefer serial exams and repeat abdominal series over CT if possible
- Treatment unchanged
 - NPO, NG placement, surgical consultation, admit



Trauma in Pregnancy



Trauma in Pregnancy

- MATERNAL DEATH IS THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF FETAL DEATH
- FETAL ASSESSMENT IS **SECONDARY** TO MATERNAL RESUSCITATION
 - But fetal well being is a marker of maternal health



Trauma in Pregnancy Primary Survey

- **Airway**
 - consider early intubation, it will be difficult
- **Breathing**
 - 100% Oxygen due to decreased FRC and increased O₂ use
 - Chest tubes 1–2 rib spaces higher
- **Circulation**
 - FHT Rule 3
 - Place patient in left lateral decubitus position or manually displace uterus to left
 - Maternal BP is preserved at expense of placental circulation
 - Changes in BP and HR occur only after 1.5L



Trauma in Pregnancy Secondary Survey

- Pregnancy history
- Estimation of gestational age
- Palpation of uterus
- Early administration of monitoring
 - Minimum of 4 hours for patients > 20 WGA
- Sterile speculum exam
 - Ferning, nitrazine paper, blood, cervix
- Bimanual exam



Trauma in Pregnancy Evaluation

- Do not withhold imaging studies
- DPL
 - Supraumbilical approach if uterus palpable above pubis
 - Open or mini-laparotomy technique preferred over closed Seldinger
- Ultrasound safe but remember does does not rule out abruption



Trauma in Pregnancy Blunt Trauma

- 60% due to MVCs
- ACOG endorses the use of three-point safety restraints
- Major threat is placental abruption
 - 2–4% in minor trauma, 30% in major trauma
 - Clinical symptoms unreliable and often absent
 - Vaginal bleeding, abdominal pain, tenderness, back pain
 - US screening – sensitivity < 50%



Trauma in Pregnancy

- **Uterine rupture**
 - Fetal mortality ~100%
 - Maternal mortality 10%
 - Risk factor – previous C-section
 - Signs and symptoms similar to abruption
 - Uterine tenderness with irregular contours, palpable fetal parts, +/- vaginal bleeding
 - In unscarred uterus, rupture tends to be posterior and often associated with bladder injury



Trauma in Pregnancy Penetrating Trauma

- Gunshot more common than knife
- Pregnancy specific injury patterns with developing gestational age
- Decisions for operative and nonoperative management made by trauma team and obstetrician



Complications During Labor and Delivery



Premature Labor

- Cervical change with contractions prior to 37 WGA
- Risk Factors: PROM, local infection, cervical incompetence, uterine abnormalities, over distended uterus, fetal abnormalities, faulty presentation, IUFD, maternal disease
- Treatment—hydration, beta agonists, monitoring



Preterm Rupture of Membranes

- 90% of term and 50% of preterm patients will be in labor 24 hours after ROM
- Determination
 - pH vaginal fluid increases 4.5–6.0 to 7.1 to 7.3
 - Ferning
- Prolonged ROM > 24 hours



Emergency Delivery

- Transport to OB in mom's uterus preferred if not imminent delivery
- If cervical dilation > 6 cm prepare for delivery
 - IV
 - CBC
 - Type and screen
 - Monitor fetal heart rate
- Neonatal team/OB



Mechanics of Emergent Delivery

- Complete cervical dilation
- Dorsal lithotomy position preferred
- Gentle perineum stretching
- Episiotomy
- No maternal pushing after head delivered
- Palpate fetal neck—check for nuchal cord and reduce if needed before delivery of shoulders



Mechanics of Emergent Delivery

- Deliver shoulders
 - Gentle downward traction to ease shoulders
 - If resistance, pressure suprapubically
 - Control posterior shoulder
- Stable grip
- Sterile cutting of cord



Management of Shoulder Dystocia

- Impaction of anterior shoulder behind pubic symphysis
- Turtle sign – head against perineum
- McRobert's maneuver – hyperflex maternal hips
- Suprapubic pressure (Rubin I)
- Rotational maneuvers
 - Woods' Corkscrew maneuver
 - Rubin II
 - Reverse Woods' corkscrew



Management of Shoulder Dystocia

- Manually deliver posterior arm with episiotomy
- Fracture clavicle intentionally
- Gaskin position – mom on “all fours”
- Zavanelli maneuver – manually push fetus back up into uterus and prepare for emergent C-section



Breech Presentation

- DO NOT pull on the fetus
- Mom push normally until baby delivered to umbilicus then NO MORE pushing
 - Support baby elevated sacrum anteriorly
- Deliver arms, posterior first, rotate, other arm
- Suprapubic pressure to FLEX the fetal head



Cord Prolapse

- Place the patient in Trendelenburg and manually elevate the presenting cord
- DO NOT push cord back in
- DO NOT pull on the cord
- Maintain manual elevation until emergent C-section is completed



Postpartum Management

- Delivery of placenta
 - Pulling on cord risks inversion of uterus
 - Placenta separation – gush of blood and lengthening of cord
- Uterine atony – explore uterine cavity, uterine massage, oxytocin, Methergine, carboprost, misoprostol
- Check for lacerations and repair episiotomy



Postpartum Complications

- Endometritis
 - fever, abdominal pain and foul smelling lochia
 - cultures, broad-spectrum antibiotics and hospitalization
- Mastitis
 - Inflammation, swelling of breast +/- fever and chills
 - Staph aureus
 - Keep breast feeding or pumping – will not hurt baby



Summary and Pearls



Rules

- Rule #1 – All female patients are pregnant until proven otherwise
- Rule #2 – All pregnant patients have an ectopic pregnancy until proven otherwise
- Rule #3 – Measure fetal heart tones



Ectopic Pregnancy

- Remember rule #2
- Sudden onset, UNILATERAL pelvic pain with nausea and vomiting
- Get the ultrasound
- Know discriminatory zone numbers to help answer disposition questions
- Methotrexate indications – stable, unruptured, and less than 4 cm, otherwise surgery!



Pre-eclampsia/Eclampsia

- Know diagnostic criteria
- Control HTN with labetalol, hydralazine
- Magnesium, magnesium, more magnesium!
- OB for emergent delivery



Placental Previa

- **PAINLESS** vaginal bleeding
- NO pelvic exam
- NO transvaginal US

Abruptio Placenta

- **PAINFUL** vaginal bleeding after abdominal trauma
- Ultrasound does NOT rule out abruption
- Fetal monitoring is the answer!



Admission Problems in Pregnancy

- Pregnancy, ectopic
- Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)
- Placenta Previa
- Placental abruption
- Pneumonia, Varicella and Influenza
- Preterm labor
- "Puking" (hyperemesis gravidarum)
- Pulmonary embolism
- Pyelonephritis
- "Pump and Pipe" Problems – cardiovascular

