

# **Preconception, Prenatal and Intrapartum Care**

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# *Preconception care*

- Preconception care involves providing biomedical, behavioral, and social health interventions to women and couples before conception occurs.
- Preconception care is particularly beneficial for women who:
  1. Have underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, phenylketonuria, or renal disease.
  2. Are exposed to potential teratogens such as warfarin or isotretinoin.
  3. High-risk behaviors such as smoking or cocaine use.

## **Goals of Pre-conception care**

- The Ultimate aim is to improve Maternal and Child health, in both the short-term and long-term
- Identify Potential risks to the Mother, Fetus and Pregnancy.
- Educate the woman about these Risks, Options for intervention and Management and Reproductive alternatives.
- initiate interventions to provide optimum Maternal, Fetal and Pregnancy outcomes.

## **Benefits of Pre-conception Care**

- Prevents unintended pregnancies.
- Reduces maternal and child mortality.
- Prevents stillbirths, preterm births, and low birth weight.
- Reduces the risk of underweight and stunting.
- Prevents vertical transmission and neonatal infections.
- Reduces complications during pregnancy and delivery.
- Prevents birth defects.
- Lowers the risk of certain childhood cancers, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases later in life.

## **Major Components of Preconception Care:**

1. Risk assessment.
2. Health promotion.
3. Medical and psychosocial intervention
4. follow-up.

- Preconception care involves 12 risk assessments and 6 health promotions. Therefore, addressing all 18 components typically requires multiple visits to a healthcare provider.

# ***Risk Assessment***

1. Reproductive Life Plan.
2. Past Reproductive History.
3. Previous Medical History and
4. Current Medications.
5. Infections and Immunizations.
6. Genetic Screening and Family History.
7. Nutritional Assessment.
8. Substance Abuse.
9. Toxins and Teratogens.
10. Psychosocial Concerns.
11. Physical Examination.
12. Laboratory Tests

## **1-Reproductive Life Plan:**

- A good starting point is to ask about every woman's reproductive life plan at every visit. This plan consists of personal goals regarding whether or not to have children, based on individual values. If the plan includes pregnancy
- within the next 1 to 2 years, the healthcare provider should schedule a comprehensive assessment and counseling session for both the woman and her partner. If pregnancy is not planned, the provider should continue to
- offer well- woman care, including effective contraception options, and periodically update the reproductive life plan.

## **2-Past Reproductive History:**

- Review previous adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as fetal loss, birth defects, low birth weight, and preterm birth. Assess ongoing biobehavioral risks that could contribute to recurrence in future pregnancies.

## **3-Past Medical and Surgical History:**

- Discuss maternal medical issues and their potential impact on the fetus.  
Evaluate how pregnancy may exacerbate underlying medical conditions.

- **Ask about past medical history, including conditions like rheumatic heart disease, thromboembolism, or autoimmune diseases that may impact future pregnancies.**
- **Screen for ongoing chronic conditions such as hypertension (HTN) and diabetes mellitus (DM).**
- **Note any prior surgeries, blood transfusions, or hospitalizations, especially gynecologic surgeries, including procedures for fibroids or abnormal Pap smears.**

## 4-Current Medications:

- Evaluate current medication usage.
- Avoid category-X drugs and most category-D drugs unless the potential maternal benefits outweigh fetal risks.
- Review the use of over-the-counter medications, herbs, and supplements.

### Category D

- ,Positive evidence of fetal risk but benefits may outweigh risks in life-threatening or serious .conditions (e.g anticonvulsants, some .(chemotherapy

### Category X:

- .Contraindicated in pregnancy
- .Fetal risks clearly outweigh any benefit
- ,Examples: Warfarin, Isotretinoin
- .Thalidomide

## **5-Infections and Immunizations:**

- Screen for periodontal, urogenital, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
- Discuss TORCH infections (i.e., toxoplasmosis, rubella, CMV, syphilis, parvovirus, and herpes).
- Recommend immunizations for hepatitis B, rubella, varicella, HPV, and influenza.

## **6-Genetic Screening and Family History:**

- Evaluate the risk of chromosomal or genetic disorders based on family history, ethnic background, and age.
- Include screening for cystic fibrosis, phenylketonuria, and thrombophilia, and discuss management strategies during pregnancy.
- Evaluate family history for congenital anomalies, chromosomal abnormalities (e.g., Down syndrome), mental retardation, developmental delay, inherited diseases such as hemoglobinopathies, cystic fibrosis, and hemophilia, recurrent pregnancy loss, stillbirth, and early infant death in the family. Consider ethnicity and consanguinity.

## **7-Nutritional Assessment:**

- Assess anthropometric measures (BMI), biochemical factors (anemia), and dietary risks.
- Achieving ideal body weight and adopting a proper diet before pregnancy is
- advisable.

Weight:

This involves losing weight if a woman is obese (BMI > 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) to reduce the risk of pregnancy complications. Alternatively, gaining weight if she is underweight (BMI < 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) lowers the risk of delivering a low birth-weight baby

● Diet:

This includes consuming a diverse range of foods rich in fiber, and ensuring adequate intake of calcium, folic acid, and other essential nutrients.

## **8 -Substance Abuse:**

- Includes smoking, alcohol, and drug use.

## **9-Toxins and Teratogens:**

- Review exposure at home and work.
- Review material safety data sheets.

## **10-Psychosocial Concerns:**

- Screen for depression, anxiety, intimate partner violence, and major psychosocial stressors.

## **11-Physical Examination:**

- Focus on periodontal health, heart, lungs, breasts, thyroid, abdomen, and pelvic examinations.

## **12-Laboratory Tests:**

- Perform CBC, urinalysis, blood type, and antibody screen.
- Test for rubella, syphilis, hepatitis B, and HIV.
- Conduct cervical cytology (Pap smear).
- Screen for diabetes in selected populations.
- Consider testing for TSH.

## **Health promotion**

1. Family planning.
2. Healthy weight and nutrition.
3. Health behaviors.
4. Stress resilience.
5. Healthy environment
6. Inter-conception care

## **1-Family Planning:**

- Encourage family planning based on a woman's reproductive life plan.
- For women not planning pregnancy, promote effective contraceptive use and discuss emergency contraception.

## **2-Healthy Weight and Nutrition:**

- Promote healthy pregnancy weight through exercise and nutrition.
- Discuss macronutrients and micronutrients, including multivitamins such as folic acid.

### **3-Health Behaviors:**

- Encourage health behaviors such as nutrition, exercise, safe sex practices, effective contraception use, and dental hygiene. Discourage risk behaviors such as smoking,
- alcohol consumption, and substance abuse.

### **4-Stress Resilience:**

- Address ongoing stressors, improve sleep and relaxation techniques, and address issues like intimate partner violence.

## **5-Healthy Environment:**

- Discuss household, neighborhood, and occupational exposures to metals, organic solvents, pesticides, endocrine disruptors, and allergens.
- Provide practical tips on reducing exposures during commuting or when picking up dry cleaning.

## **6-Inter-conception Care:**

- Encourage breastfeeding, back to sleep, positive parenting behaviors, and reducing ongoing biobehavioral risks.

# Intervention

**Pre-conception interventions include Health Promotion and Education; Counseling related to Reproductive health risks; Optimizing the control of Medical disorders and Referral for specialized care, when appropriate**



**The following core interventions can reduce the occurrence of congenital anomalies, congenital disease, impaired or excessive fetal growth and a variety of pregnancy complications (e.g, Preterm birth, Abruption placenta):**

**1**

Advanced maternal age (> 35 years at time of delivery) is associated with increased risks that include Infertility, Fetal aneuploidy, Gestational D.M, Pre-eclampsia and Still-birth.



## 2

## Weight and BMI:

- Low-BMI is associated with intrauterine growth retardation.
- Maternal obesity is associated with NTDs, Preterm delivery, Diabetes, C/S and Hypertensive and Thromboembolic disease.
- Appropriate Weight loss and Nutritional intake before Pregnancy reduces these risks.

BMI Classification	
BMI	Category
Lower than 18.5	Underweight
18.5 up to 25	Optimal
25 up to 30	Overweight
30 upwards	Obese



### 3 HYPOTHYROIDISM

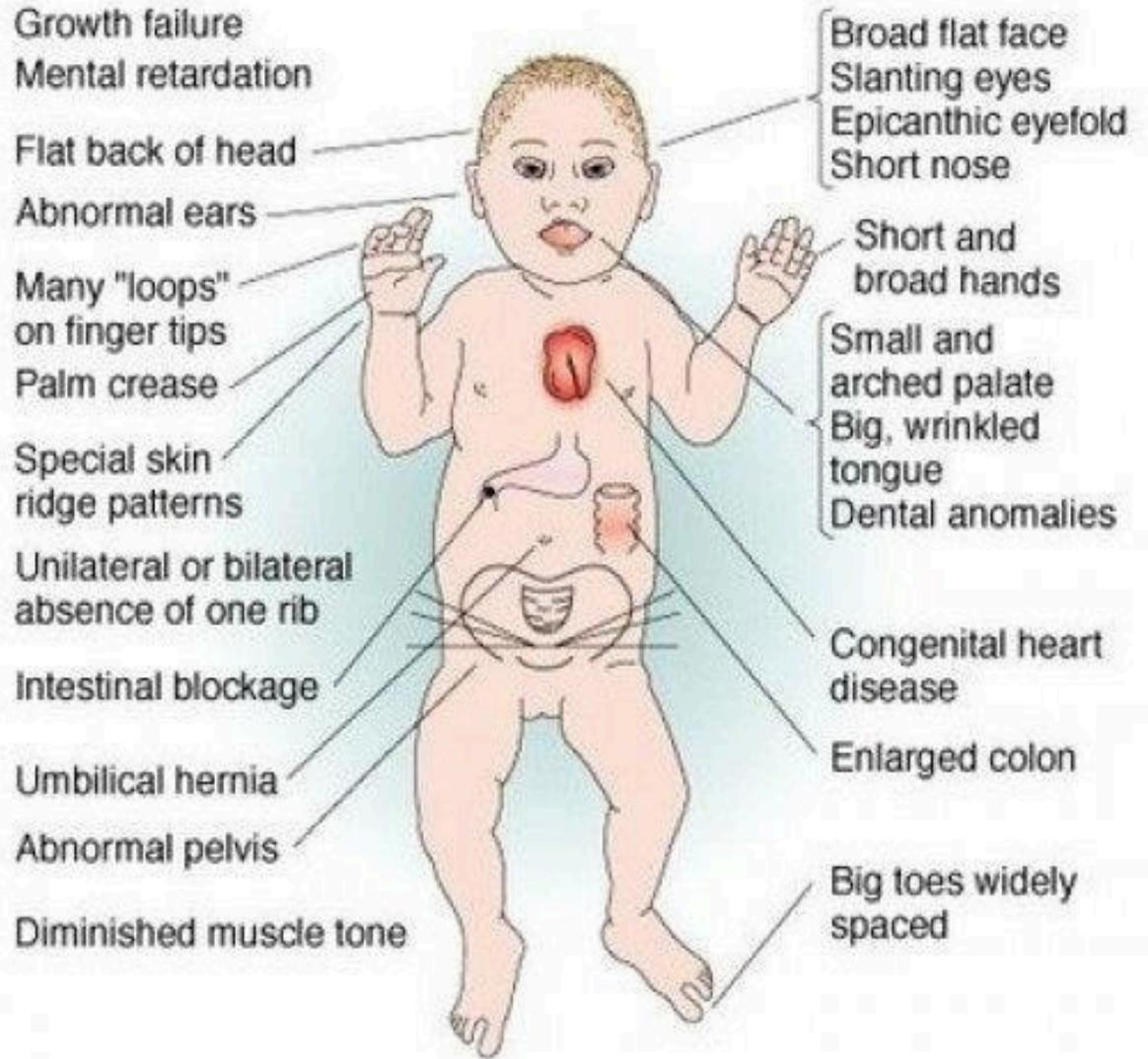
is a condition marked by an underactive thyroid gland and may be present during pregnancy

○ Increase the risk of Spontaneous Miscarriage, Abruption, Pre-eclampsia, Low-birth-weight or Still-birth and Lower cognitive function in offspring.

Demand of Thyroid hormones increase during early pregnancy.  
So, mother need to increase here dose of treatment.



# ● Congenital Hypothyroidism



## 4 smoking

Maternal smoking is associated with Preterm birth, Low-birth weight, SUDI and other adverse perinatal outcomes pregnancy .can be prevented if women stop smoking before or during early Pregnancy.

○ Cessation of smoking is recommended before Pregnancy as early as possible.



## 5 Alcohol

NO time during Pregnancy is safe to drink alcohol, and harm can occur early, before a woman has realized that she is or might be Pregnant.

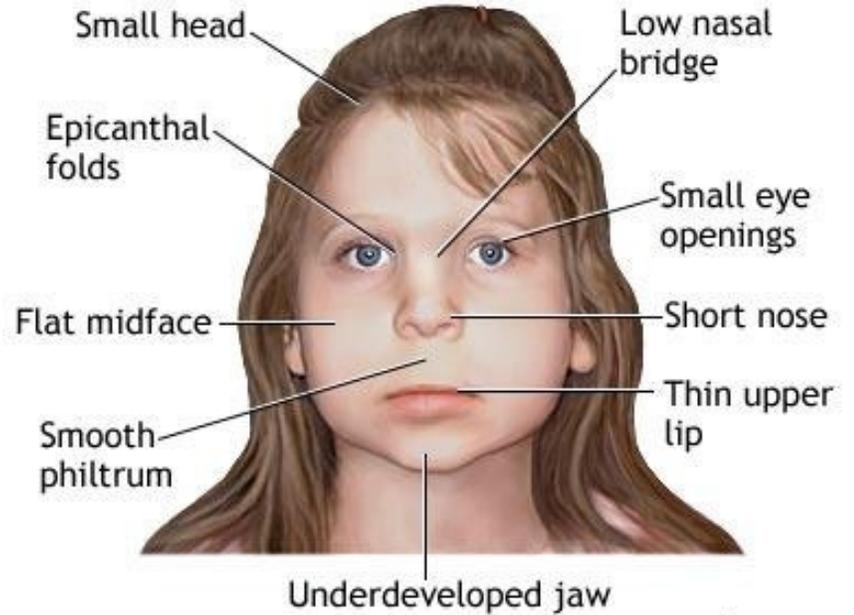
**Miscarriage ,IUGR ,LBW,stillbirth and malformation**

**NO AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL IS SAFE**



## 5 FAS

○ Fetal-alcohol syndrome and other alcohol-related birth defects can be prevented if women cease intake of alcohol before conception



## 6 Hepatitis B

- Preventing hepatitis-B virus (HBV) infection in women of childbearing age, prevents transmission of infection to infants and eliminates risk to the woman of HBV infection and sequelae, including **Liver cirrhosis, Hepatic Failure, Liver carcinoma and death.**
- All decisions about initiating, continuing or stopping therapy of the HBV during pregnancy must include an analysis of the risks and benefits for mother and fetus. The trimester of the pregnancy and the stage of the mother's liver disease are important factors.
- Current safety data suggest that **Lamivudine, Telbivudine or Tenofovir** may be used during Pregnancy.



## 7 Rubella

Vertical transmission of rubella from mother to fetus carries a high risk of causing serious congenital abnormalities.

- Women who are found to be rubella non-immune should be strongly advised to avoid infectious contacts and should undergo rubella immunization after the current pregnancy to protect themselves for the future.
- The theoretical risk of viral reactivation from the vaccine means it should NOT be given during Pregnancy and Pregnancy should be **avoided for the 3 months following immunization..**

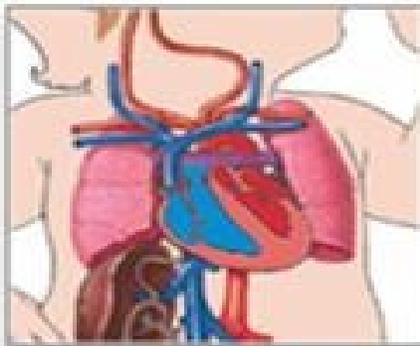


Infection with Rubella virus causes the most severe damage (i.e, **Congenital Rubella Syndrome**) when the mother is infected early in Pregnancy, esp. in the first trimester.

- Liver and spleen damage. • Low-birth weight.
- Skin-rash at birth. • Cataracts.
- Heart defects. • Intellectual disabilities. • Deafness...



Microcephaly



PDA



Cataracts



## 8 Sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs):

**Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae** have been strongly associated with Ectopic Pregnancy, Infertility, and Chronic pelvic pain.

- STDs during pregnancy might result in Fetal death or Substantial physical and developmental disabilities, including mental retardation and blindness.
- Early screening and treatment prevents these adverse



## 9 Oral anticoagulant:

- Use of Warfarin during the First trimester is associated with an increased risk of spontaneous abortion, IUGR, CNS defects (including mental retardation), still-birth and a fetal-warfarin syndrome (i.e, a characteristic syndrome of craniofacial features).
- To avoid exposure to Warfarin during Early Pregnancy, medications can be changed to a non-teratogenic anti-coagulant before the onset of Pregnancy.
- Warfarin easily crosses the placenta, causing bleeding problems in the fetus, and is excreted in breast milk
- Heparin has major advantages over warfarin anticoagulants during pregnancy because it does NOT cross the placenta



# 10 Anti-epileptic drugs:

Women with Epilepsy taking anti-epileptic drugs have a greater (2-3 times) risk than other women of having a baby with a Fetal abnormality.

- Taking > 1 anti-epileptic drug carries a higher risk than monotherapy esp. if one of the medicines is **Valproic acid**.
- The most common malformations include **Cleft lip and palate and Problems with the heart, urinary or genital systems**.
- **Carbamazepine** (the safest anti-epileptic agent in pregnancy) or **Lamotrigine** are the anti-convulsant drugs of choice in pregnancy



# Recommendations

1. Make sure the patient really needs anti-epileptic treatment
2. the Most Effective drug with the Fewest Side effects should be used.
3. Use as few drugs as possible at the Lowest Effective dose.
4. Monitor drug levels during Pregnancy.



# 11 Antianxiety Agents:

Antianxiety agents are currently used by a significant number of pregnant women. Data regarding their teratogenicity are conflicting, although exposure to **meprobamate** or **chlordiazepoxide** has been associated with a greater than fourfold increase in severe congenital anomalies.

- **Fluoxetine** is now the drug of choice for anxiety and depression during pregnancy and is considered safe to continue even in women who breastfeed.



● **Respiratory compromise** may mean that pregnancy is contraindicated, severe compromise is present in such patients as evidenced by their background medical condition such as cystic fibrosis or their limited exercise tolerance.

● In the presence of **Renal compromise**, the advice may be that pregnancy is better attempted sooner rather than later, that conception occurs in mild to moderate renal failure rather than severe renal failure with advancing maternal age



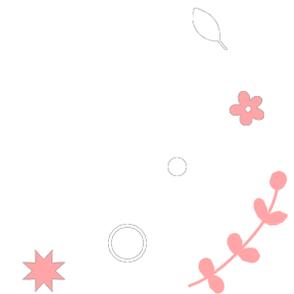
# Antenatal care



# Definition of ANC :

Antenatal care is all the medical care, examinations, and monitoring aimed at ensuring a safe and healthy pregnancy, reducing risks for both mother and baby.



- 
- The first prenatal visit provides an opportunity to review medical, reproductive, family, genetic, nutritional, and psychosocial histories
  - Reproductive histories that include preterm birth, low birth weight, preeclampsia, stillbirth, congenital anomalies, and gestational diabetes are important to record because of the substantial risk of recurrence.
  - Women with prior cesarean delivery should be asked about the circumstances of the delivery, and discussion about options for the mode of delivery for the current pregnancy should be initiated.
- 

AFTER history , A complete physical examination should be performed including assessment of the patient's body mass index (BMI) in addition to blood pressure (BP) .



Clinicians should be familiar with physical findings associated with normal pregnancy

● During the breast examination, clinicians should initiate discussion about breastfeeding .

“Pelvic exam is not routinely performed at the booking visit, unless there is a

clinical indication such as vaginal bleeding, abnormal discharge, or if a

cervical smear is due

# Laboratory tests at the initial visit

In the initial visit if the women prime gravida the blood group and RH should be tested

At each visit the symphysis-fundal height is plotted .the blood pressure measured and the urine tested

## 1. Blood sample

- \* screening for infections disease as ( HIV / SYPHILIS )
- \* guide immunity against disease as ( rubella / varicella )

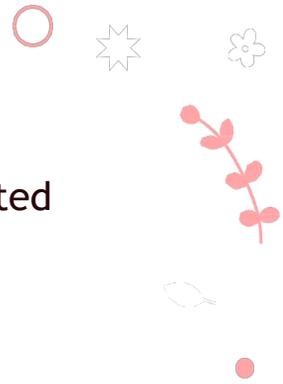
## 2. Fasting blood glucose and glycosylated hemoglobin

- \* screening for diabetes
- risk factor :
  - Age > 40
  - BMI > 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
  - HbA1c in prediabetes range
  - history of dyslipidemia and hypertension

## 3. Urine analysis and urine culture

- \* screening for asymptomatic bacteriuria and UTI (which common during pregnancy )

## Hepatitis B



# normal complains in pregnancy

## $\frac{3}{4}$ 1st trimesters

Nausea and vomiting

Fatigue and extreme tiredness dizziness

Constipation

Nose and gum bleeding

$\frac{3}{4}$  2nd trimesters She is feeling better  
Quickening (fetal movement) 16\_18 w

$\frac{3}{4}$  3rd trimesters Heart

burn 75% Backache

Fluid retention and edema

Stress incontinence Varicose

veins Hemorrhoids 1:10

# • Follow up visits

- - Recommended follow up visit schedule for health pregnant women is :
- Every 4 weeks up to 28th weeks .
- Every 2 weeks from 29th till 36th weeks .
- Every week from 37th to birth .
- \*\* During each regularly scheduled visit , the clinician should evaluate :
- 1- blood pressure .
- 2- weight
- 3- urine protein and glucose
- 4- uterine size
- 5- fetal heart rate
- \* after 20 weeks of gestation she should be asked about fetal movement

- Between 24 and 34 weeks, women should be taught the warning symptoms of preterm labor such as:

1. *uterine contractions (regular or frequent sensation of abdominal tightness)*
2. *leakage of fluid*
3. *vaginal bleeding (bloody show)*
4. *A sensation of low pelvic pressure*
5. *low back pain*



# **Antenatal Screening for maternal and fetal complications**





# Fetal screening



# 1) CONFIRMATION OF FETAL VIABILITY

all pregnant women should be offered a “ DatingScan”; Which is best to be performed between the 10 and 13 weeks of gestation Which is The Ultrasound test used to

***check the fetal heartbeat find out if there is more than one fetus measure***

***the fetal crown-rump length to estimate how many weeks' pregnant***

***Screening for fetal abnormalities***

***its a part of the combined screening test for Down's syndrome, Edwards'***

***syndrome and Patau's syndrome***

## 2) STRUCTURAL ABNORMALITIES

\*Major structural anomalies are present in about 3% of fetus screened at ~~the 20 weeks' gestation.~~

\*Detection rates are very dependent on the system examined, skill of operator, time allowed for the scan and the quality of the U/S.

\*Local detection rates of various anomalies such spina bifida, heart diseases or facial clefting should be made available.



### 3) SCREENING FOR FETAL GROWTH RESTRICTION

- \* Auscultation for the fetal heart will confirm that the fetus is alive and can usually be detected BETWEEN THE 8TH AND 14th week of gestation.
  - \* Measurement of ***symphysis-fundal height*** in cm starting at the uterine fundus and ending on the fixed point of the symphysis pubis has a sensitivity and specificity of approximately 88%
    - \* women with one or more risk factors should have serial ultrasound scans to assess fetal growth, whereas low-risk women should have growth assessment by antenatal symphysis-fundal charts.
- 

# Maternal complication screening

Blood group and  
alloantibodies

Anemia

hemoglobinopathies

Hypertension

Gestational DM

infections

Psychiatric illness

1- blood groups and alloantibodies

Identifying the maternal blood group is essential to prevent hemolytic diseases

## When ?

Screening for maternal blood group must be done at the first visit and repeated at the 28<sup>th</sup> week of gestation

If the mother is RH- , father RH+ , -ve indirect coombs test then you should give the mother anti D prophylaxis at 28 week and at delivery if the baby was RH+ (by taking cord blood sample )

Also within 72 hours of any sensitizing event

Anti-D should be given whenever it is thought likely that there could have been a leakage of fetal blood suspected to be positive RhD into the mother's circulation. **This is known as a sensitizing event**, includes:

## **Termination of pregnancy**

**Turning a breech baby (ECV)**

## **Birth of the baby**

**Vaginal bleeding**

## **Miscarriage (usually after 12 weeks )**

**Amniocentesis or chorionic Villi sampling**

## **Trauma to the stomach**

## **In pregnancies less than 12 weeks' gestation**

anti-D immunoglobulin prophylaxis is only indicated following ectopic pregnancy, molar pregnancy, therapeutic termination of pregnancy and in cases of uterine bleeding where this is repeated , heavy or associated with abdominal pain

## **2- Anemia**

Iron deficiency anemia considered the most common cause of anemia during pregnancy since Iron demands during pregnancy increases due to:

1. Fetal developing requirements
2. Placental formation
3. Increasing in Maternal red cells mass

**Hb level below 11 gm/dL up to the 12th week of gestation OR less than 10.5 gm/dL at the 28th week considered significant anemia and requires further investigations.** .(routine screening should be performed at the booking visit and at 28 week of gestation )

Severely low Hb (8.5-10.5 gm/dL) is highly associated with **preterm and low birthweight**. \*Screening methods:

**-CBC relieving Hb and Hematocrit levels**

-**serum ferritin** is the best way of assessing maternal iron stores and if found to be low , iron supplementation should be considered

Other causes :

1. Vitamin B12 deficiency
2. 2. Folic acid deficiency
3. 3. Vaginal bleeding
4. 4. Hemolytic anemia (rare)

## MAINLY SCREENING FOR BOTH SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THALASSEMIA.

- DURING PREGNANCY SCD CAN BECOME MORE SEVERE, AND PAIN EPISODES CAN OCCUR MORE OFTEN. A PREGNANT WOMAN WITH SCD IS AT A HIGHER RISK OF PRETERM LABOR, HAVING A LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABY OR OTHER COMPLICATIONS.
- ALSO PREGNANT WOMEN WITH BETA THALASSEMIA CAN DEVELOP ANEMIA, WHICH CAN RAISE THE CHANCES OF DELIVERING EARLY. THEY ALSO MAY NEED MORE FREQUENT BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS DURING PREGNANCY CAUSING IRON OVERLOAD AND MATERNAL DISTRESS.
- DEPENDING ON THE PREVALENCE RATES OF THE COUNTRY ; THE SCREENING CAN BE DONE EITHER AS :
  - A FREQUENT LABORATORY SCREENING
  - FAMILY ORIGINAL QUESTIONNAIRE

## In beta thalassemia major women willing to get pregnant:

- **Partner:** Screening of the partner for beta thalassemia status, with relevant genetic counseling, blood typing, and spermogram are recommended.
- **Fertility assessment:** This should include analysis of gonadal function through a medical history and hormone assays, standard pelvic examination, pelvic ultrasonography and hysterosalpingography
- **Iron overload:** Given the risk of a significant increase in iron overload during pregnancy, thalassemic women wishing to become pregnant should undergo complete evaluation of organ iron overload, including liver and heart magnetic resonance (MRI) T2. In the case of severe hemosiderosis, pregnancy should be postponed

# Gestational DM

pregnant women having 1 or more risk factors for gestational diabetes should be offered a screening test

The screening test is called an oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) and it is done between the 24th and 28th week of pregnancy.

**For those having previous gestational diabetes**, they will be offered an OGTT earlier in their pregnancy, then another OGTT at 24 to 28 weeks if the first test is normal

Table 2 High-risk factors for gestational diabetes mellitus

- Previous history of gestational diabetes mellitus
- Previously elevated blood glucose level
- Maternal age  $\geq 40$  years
- Family history of diabetes mellitus (first degree relative with diabetes or a sister with gestational diabetes mellitus)
- Body mass index  $> 35 \text{ kg/m}^2$
- Previous macrosomia (baby with birth weight  $> 4,500 \text{ g}$  or  $> 90\text{th}$  centile)
- Polycystic ovary syndrome
- Medications: corticosteroids, antipsychotics

# 6-Hypertensive disorders

## Chronic Hypertension

- Gestational hypertension
- Pre-eclampsia: pregnant women should be taught to recognize the warning symptoms of preeclampsia (frontal headache, visual changes, hand or facial swelling, epigastric or right upper quadrant pain) in the late second trimester
- Eclampsia :pre-eclampsia + new onset of seizure or coma

# 7- infections

Maternal blood is recommended to be screened for certain infections (HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B virus, and hepatitis C virus) for all pregnant women.

they may also be repeated at 32 to 36 weeks if the woman has specific risk factors for these diseases

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend universal screening for maternal colonization of group B streptococcus at 35 to 37 weeks' gestation

Identification of women who are hepatitis B carriers can lead to a 95% reduction in mother-to-infant transmission following appropriate postnatal administration of vaccine and immunoglobulin to the baby

Women who are positive HIV can be offered treatment with antiretroviral drugs which when combined with delivery by SC and avoidance of Breastfeeding can reduce maternal transmission ratio from near 25% to 1%

## **8- psychiatric illness**

Women should be asked about history of significant mental illness, previous psychiatric treatment or a family history of prenatal mental health illness. If mental illness is suspected, further referral assessment should be made.

Women should be also screened for depression early in pregnancy, during the third trimester and again postpartum. A simple self-administered 10 question screening tool, the “Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale” (EPDS)

The incidence of depression during pregnancy and the postpartum period is as high as 20%. Multiple studies have shown a significant relationship between vitamin D deficiency and depression.

# Intrapartum care



# INTRAPARTUM CARE

LABOUR → DELIVERY → ONE HOUR FOLLOWING BIRTH



GOAL

HEALTHY  
MOTHER AND  
BABY

MEDSKL

- Intrapartum Care involves the care of both the mother and fetus during labour and delivery including the first one hour following birth.

## CONTRACTIONS: HOW TO KNOW IF THEY'RE TRUE LABOR OR FALSE LABOR

	TRUE LABOR	FALSE LABOR (Braxton-Hicks contractions)
<b>Are the contractions regular?</b>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They're regular and get closer together over time.</li><li>• They last 30 to 70 seconds each.</li></ul>	<p><b>No.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They're irregular and stay irregular. They don't get closer together over time.</li><li>• You're more likely to have them late in the day or after a lot of physical activity.</li></ul>
<b>Are the contractions strong?</b>	<p><b>Yes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They get stronger over time.</li><li>• They're so strong you can't walk or talk.</li><li>• They keep coming even when you move around.</li></ul>	<p><b>Sometimes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They're usually mild and don't get stronger over time.</li><li>• They may be strong and then weak.</li><li>• They can be painful.</li><li>• They may stop when you walk or change position.</li></ul>



**REVIEW HISTORY:**

OBSTETRICAL  
MEDICAL  
SURGICAL

**CONFIRM:**

GESTATIONAL AGE  
GBS STATUS  
ACTIVE LABOUR

MEDSKL

- 
- When a woman presents in labour, it is essential to review her obstetrical, medical and surgical history, confirm the gestational age, and GBS status and determine that she is in active labour.
- 

CERVICAL  
DILATATION,  
EFFACEMENT,  
MEMBRANE STATUS

FETAL  
HEART  
RATE

CONTRACTION  
PATTERN



MEDSKL

- 
- Examination must ensure a normal fetal heart rate, determine cervical dilatation and effacement and membrane status and note the contraction pattern.
  - The clinician must be aware of any contra indications to vaginal birth such as placenta previa, malpresentation, and previous classical caesarian section.
- 



● Normal FHR is (110 -160)

### **Bradycardia**

**Baseline FHR > 110 BPM**

#### **Causes:**

- Congenital heart block.
- Serious fetal compromise.

### **Tachycardia**

**Baseline FHR < 160 BPM**

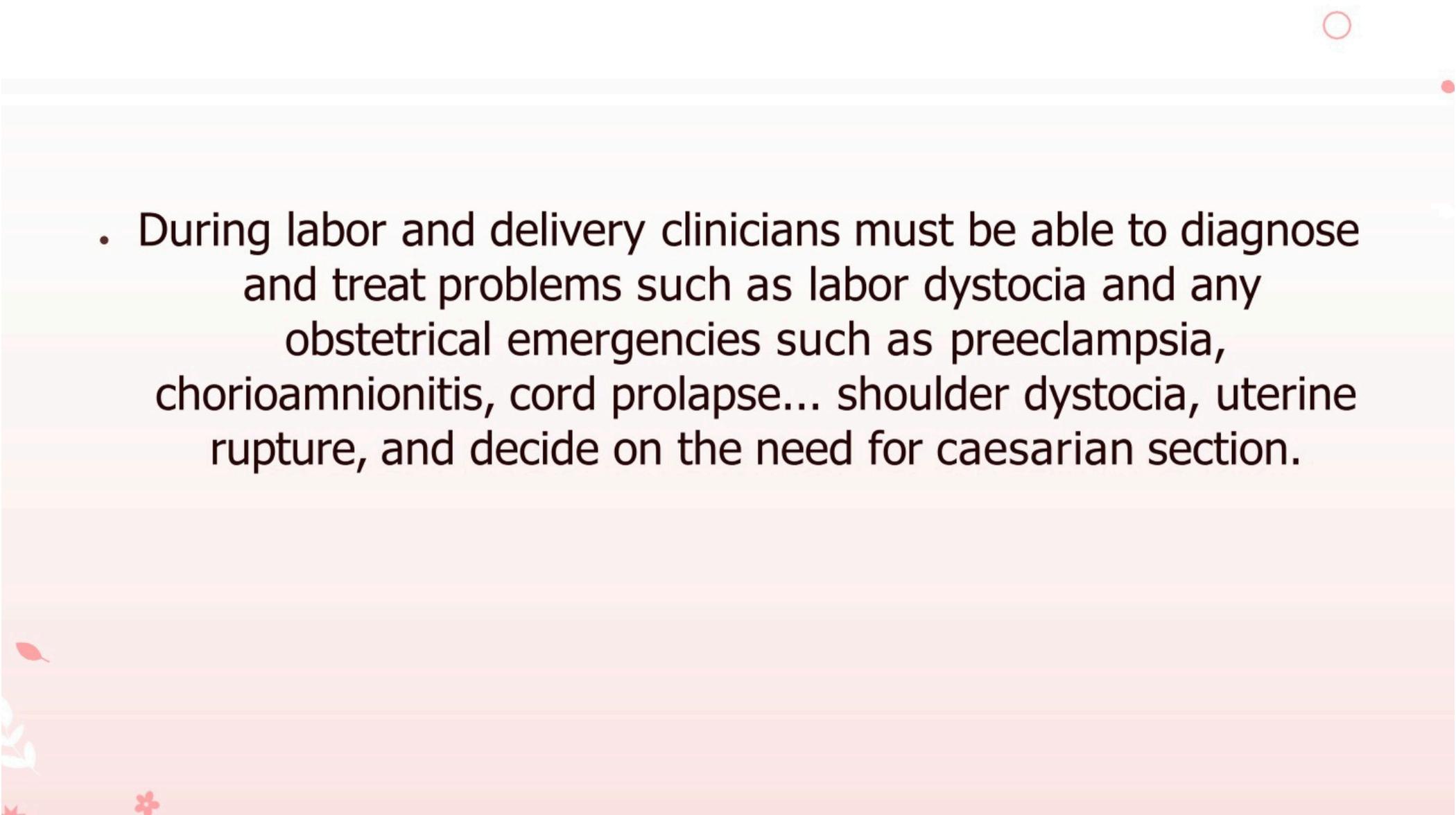
#### **Causes:**

- Maternal fever.
- Fetal compromise.
- Maternal hypotension due to epidural analgesia.
- Cardiac arrhythmias.



# DIAGNOSE AND TREAT PROBLEMS



- 
- During labor and delivery clinicians must be able to diagnose and treat problems such as labor dystocia and any obstetrical emergencies such as preeclampsia, chorioamnionitis, cord prolapse... shoulder dystocia, uterine rupture, and decide on the need for caesarian section.

1. LATENT  
AND ACTIVE

# 4 STAGES OF LABOUR



2. FULL  
DILATATION  
TO DELIVERY



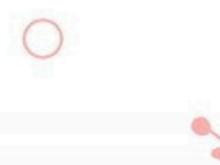
3. DELIVERY  
OF PLACENTA



4. 1ST HOUR  
POSTPARTUM



MEDSKL



It is important to understand the 4 stages of labour:

Stage 1 – latent and active phase

Stage 2 – full dilatation to delivery

Stage 3 – delivery of the placenta

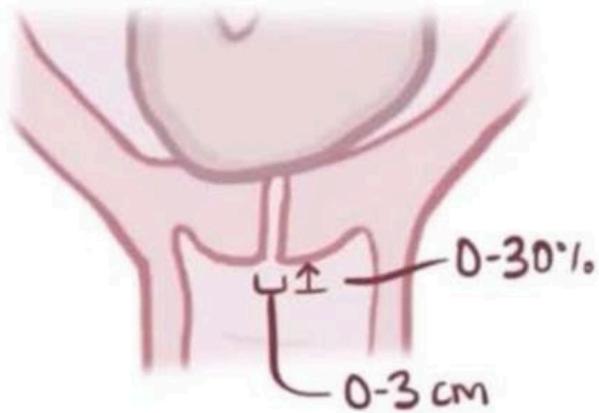
Stage 4 – the 1st hour postpartum



# FIRST STAGE

(AMNIOTIC SAC RUPTURES)

(LATE)  
EARLY

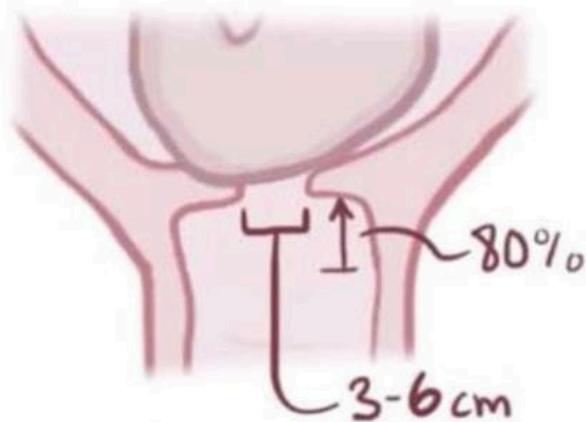


\* 20 HOURS

\* IRREGULAR  
CONTRACTIONS

↳ Every 5-30 min

↳ Lasts 20 sec



\* REGULAR  
CONTRACTIONS

↳ Every 3-5 min

↳ Lasts 1+ min

ACTIVE



\* INTENSE  
CONTRACTIONS

↳ 60-90 sec

↳ Every 0.5-2 min

# Monitoring of first stage of labour

- **Latent phase:**

Monitor every 1/2 hour :

- Contractions :  
frequency: How many contractions in 10 min.  
Duration: Each lasting for how many seconds.
- Fetal Heart Rate (FHR)

Monitor the following every 4 hours:

Temperature , pulse , blood pressure.

# Monitoring of first stage of labor

- **Active phase:**

Monitor the following every 30 minutes:

- Maternal pulse, uterine contraction , FHR
- Look for presence of :
  - meconium or blood stained or cord prolapse.
- Monitor the following every 4 hours :
  - Cervical dilatation (in cm) by P/V.
  - Temperature .
  - Blood pressure.

# Monitoring of 2nd stage of labour

Monitor the following every 5 minutes:

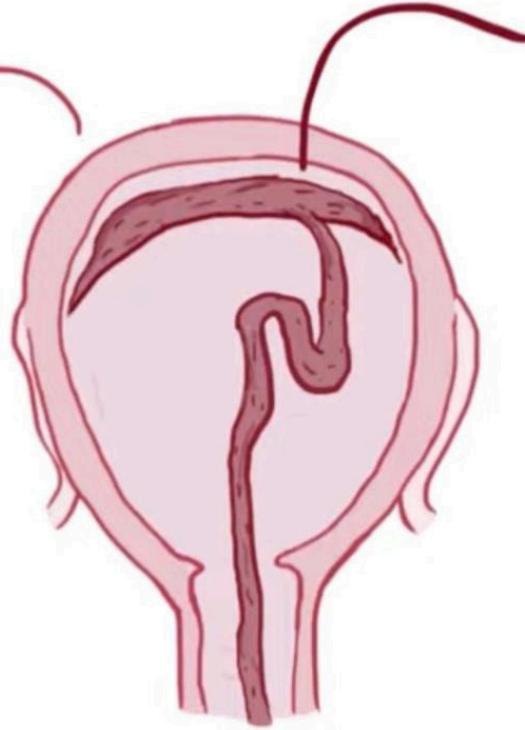
- Frequency , duration and intensity of contractions.
- FHR.
- Perineal thinning and bulging.
- Visible descent of fetal head during contractions.
- Presence of any signs indicating an emergency.

# Supportive management during second stage

- Any position woman is comfortable; dorsal lithotomy, sitting , squatting.
- Encourage bearing down when has urge to push at full dilatation.
- Discourage bearing down before the cervix is fully dilated.
- Don't ask her to hold breath.
- Encourage rapid breathing with mouth open.
- Hydration –oral / IV fluids
- Once the baby is born, check for cord around the neck.
- The fetal mouth should be aspirated before first breath.
- Deliver the shoulder.
- Give the neonate to the nurse for cleaning and drying.

# THIRD STAGE

UTERUS  
CONTRACTS



PLACENTA  
SEPERATES  
from

UTERINE  
WALL

&

CAREFULLY  
REMOVED

Controlled cord  
traction

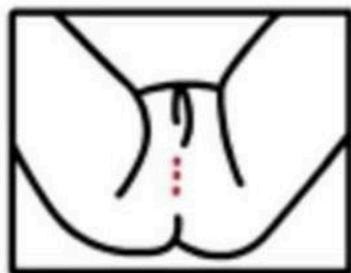
- Use Active Management to reduce risk of postpartum hemorrhage.
  - Monitor the mother continuously after deliver.
  - Check uterine contractions regularly (firm vs. boggy).
    - Ensure complete expulsion of the placenta.

## (FOURTH STAGE)

- \* ADAPTATION to BLOOD LOSS
- \* START of UTERINE INVOLUTION



CORD BLOOD FOR  
GAS ANALYSIS AND  
BLOOD GROUP



REPAIR  
LACERATIONS



EVALUATE  
VITAL SIGNS



MEDSKL

# Immediate postpartum care

After placental delivery

- check uterus well contracted.
- Examine perineum ,lower vagina and vulva for tears.
- Episiotomy should be repair laceration
- Clean the perineum.
- Assessment of vital sign and bleeding
- Estimate the blood loss

-Blood group for the MOTHER (RH)(-)

-Cord Sample for gas analysis and Blood group of the FETUS (RH) (-/+)

# Immediate postpartum care

- Dispose placenta in correct, safe and culturally appropriate manner.
- Keep mother and baby together – encourage early breastfeeding.
- Encourage to eat , drink and rest.
- Encourage women to pass urine.
- Don't discharge the women before 24 hours after delivery.
- Post partum visits :
  - First at 7-10 days.
  - Second at 6 weeks.

# skin-to-skin contact

- helps regulate the baby's temperature, breathing, and heart rate.
- boosts the mother's milk supply and stimulates the baby's feeding instincts.
- strengthens the bond between the mother and her baby.
- promotes the release of oxytocin — the body's natural feel-good hormone.
- helps build the baby's immunity to infections.

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Research suggests that skin-to-skin contact in the first few months of life can play a key role in **baby's** development, influencing **brain** activity and stress hormones at a critical time.