

Obstetric Emergencies

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Definition

An emergency is an occurrence of a serious and dangerous nature, developing suddenly and unexpectedly, demanding immediate attention.

Management

Principles of managing obstetric emergencies

1. Avoidance

- address and manage risks
- adopt good obstetric practice

2. Assessment

- ABC
- Cause

3. Action

- Resuscitate
- IV access
- Oxygen
- Remove cause
- Manage other causes

Basic life Support Skills

- Shake and shout
- Airway
- Breathing
- Circulation
- Look for hypovolaemia
- Aggressive fluid replacement
- Stop haemorrhage
- Stabilize and seek a cause
- Senior multi-disciplinary assistance throughout

Maternal Emergencies

1. Obstetric haemorrhage

- Antepartum haemorrhage
- Postpartum haemorrhage

2. Hypertensive disorders

- Pre-eclampsia
- Eclampsia

3. Uterine inversion

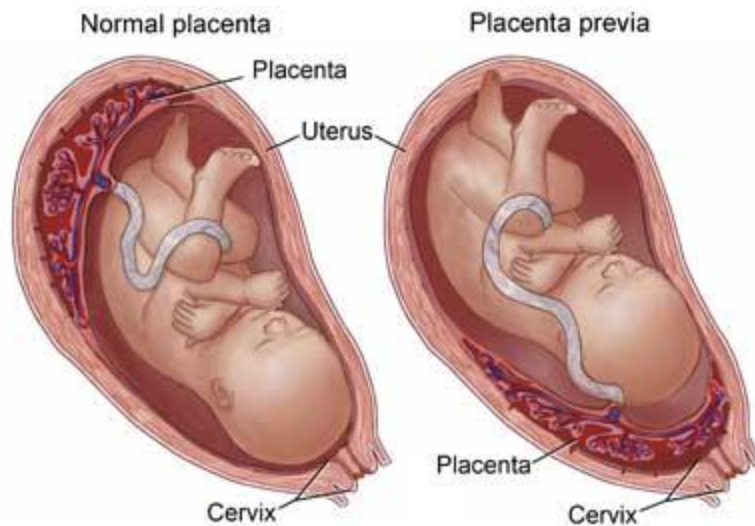
4. Uterine rupture

5. Pulmonary embolism

6. Amniotic fluid embolism

Antepartum haemorrhage

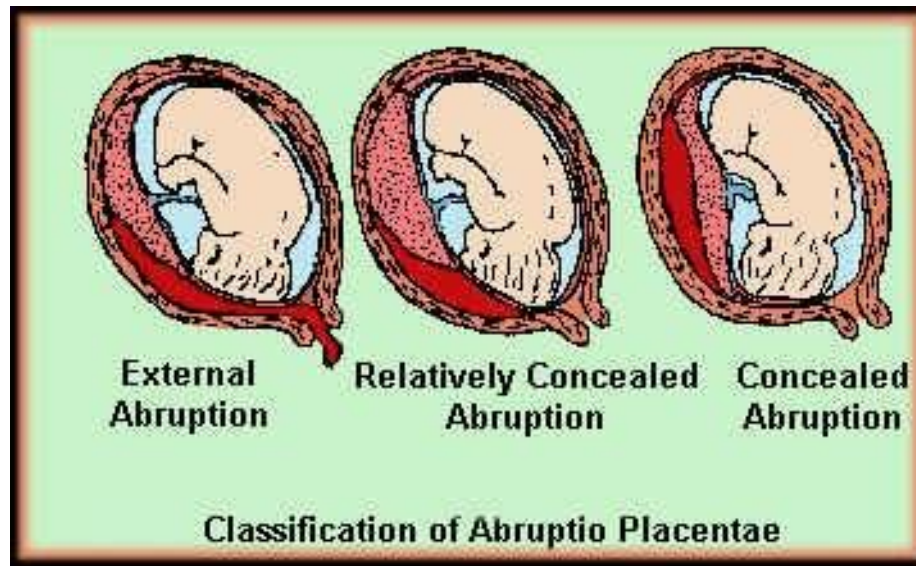
Placentae Previa



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Antepartum haemorrhage

Abruptio placentae



Uterine inversion

Decent of the uterine fundus into the cavity, through the cervix or even through the vulva



Uterine rupture



Fetal Emergencies

- Umbilical cord accidents
- Shoulder dystocia

Shoulder Dystocia Drill

- Call for help
- Avoid excess traction at all times
- Hyperflex and abduct the hips
- Apply suprapubic pressure
- Rotate the shoulders by internal manipulation
- Deliver the posterior arm
- More dramatic techniques are rarely necessary
- Avoid:
 - ❖ Fundal pressure
 - ❖ Turning the patient into the left lateral position
 - ❖ Inappropriate traction on the head.

Shoulder Dystocia Drill



Cord Prolapse

