

CODE:

08 ✓

Question: Obstetrics

Type:

Author:

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**Opening Scenario:**

- 27 yr old woman - 35 weeks gestation with twin pregnancy
- pregnancy uneventful until premature rupture of membranes 12 hrs ago - now in labour, needs pain control

**Major points of additional information to be provided to the candidate, e.g., hx, px, labs, x-ray, consults:**

- with epidural placed, labour progresses rapidly - delivers 1st twin vaginally (vertex)
  - 2nd twin also vertex - begins to show deep prolonged variable decelerations on monitor
  - OBS tells you he wants relaxation of uterus to perform internal version and then breech extraction
- as OBS inserts hand up into uterus, patient groans, clutches chest and ECG shows very slow bradycardia
  - patient becomes unconscious

**Major decision points (major decision points or options which must be recognized by the candidate)**

- recognize how twin pregnancy exaggerates the physiological changes of pregnancy
- recognize the special risks of twin pregnancy - fetal, prematurity, IUGR, twin-twin transfusion, malpresentations  
maternal: preclampsia, abruption, uterine atony + PPH, operative delivery - forceps and CS
- epidural anesthesia - how to tailor the block for twins
- delivery - ready for operative delivery - either push up level of epidural or prepare for GA
- call for uterine relaxation - try NTG first, ready for GA
- sudden ↓ in LOC - recognize urgency - quick DDX - begin resuscitation-CPR - need for lateral tilt
  - recognize need to empty uterus to have any hope of survival

**Any followup information required to lead to the end of the question**

- poor femoral pulses during chest massage - despite lateral tilt and epinephrine IV
- uterine cervix clamped down - OBS persists in attempts to deliver vaginally  
(candidate will need to tell OBS to do abdominal delivery - should decide within 3-4 min!)
- once fetus out, patient responds to resuscitation

**Critical features to be included i.e. the *must* have to pass the question or to be considered *completely* unacceptable**

- *must* demonstrate that twin pregnancy presents more risks
- *must* have plan for delivery - understand role of epidural - ready for problems
- *must* recognize that CPR in pregnant patient difficult unless uterus emptied

Ref: RCEXAMS2.NOV.94

USED:

Last revision: 95/10