

Auscultation of Fetal Heart Rate

OBJECTIVE: Demonstrate the ability to count and assess the fetal heart rate using a fetoscope, a Doppler and a Pinard horn.

EQUIPMENT: A fetoscope, a Doppler, a Pinard horn, gel, and a watch or clock with a second hand

Fetoscope

Skill Mastery

Procedure

1. Explain the procedure to the woman.
2. Assist the woman to a supine position.
3. By palpation, determine the following:
 - a. fetal position
 - b. fetal presentation
 - c. fetal lie
4. Place the head of the fetoscope on the woman's abdomen where you are most likely to find fetal heart tones.
5. Listen and count the beats for at least one minute.
6. Listen and count for two or more five or six-second intervals.
7. Multiply.
8. Compare counts to determine variability.
9. Assess for variability of the fetal heart rate:
 - a. as it occurs spontaneously, and/or
 - b. as it occurs with fetal activity, and/or
 - c. as it occurs with palpation of the fetus. Then note:
 1. any irregularity of heart rhythm or of heart sounds
 2. loudness of the heart tones relative to the position of the fetus
10. If the location of the fetal heart tones conflicts with your assessment of #3 above, repeat #3 to be sure of fetal position, if necessary. (More applicable in later pregnancy.)
11. Discuss the significance of any findings with the woman.
12. Document findings and compare with earlier recordings, if any.

Examiner's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Examiner's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Doppler

Skill Mastery

Procedure

1. Explain the procedure to the woman.
2. Assist the woman to a supine position.
3. By palpation, determine the following:
 - a. fetal position
 - b. fetal presentation
 - c. fetal lie
4. Place the Doppler (with gel applied) on the woman's abdomen where you are most likely to find fetal heart tones.
5. Listen and count the beats for at least one minute.
6. If applicable, listen and count for two or more five or six-second intervals.
7. Multiply.
8. Compare counts to determine variability.
9. Assess for the following variability of heart rate (in the second and/or third trimester):
 - a. as it occurs spontaneously, and/or
 - b. as it occurs with fetal activity, and/or
 - c. as it occurs with palpation of the fetus. Then note:
 1. any irregularity of heart rhythm or of heart sounds
 2. loudness of heart tones relative to position of fetus
10. If the place you found the heart tones conflicts with your assessment of #3 above, repeat #3 to be sure of fetal position, if necessary. (More applicable in later pregnancy.)
11. Discuss the significance of any findings with the woman.
12. Document findings and compare with earlier recordings, if any.

Examiner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Examiner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pinard Horn

Skill Mastery

Procedure

1. Explain the procedure to the woman.
2. Assist the woman to a supine position.