



### Fetal heart rate monitoring in labour

1. Fetal heart rate is monitored in labour to know the condition of the baby in labour.
2. The rate of fetal heart is checked before, during & after uterine contractions or pains.
3. Fetal heart rates  $< 120/\text{min}$  or  $> 160/\text{min}$  during labour is considered abnormal.
4. This indicates fetal distress or the baby having problem with oxygenation during labour.
5. FHR monitoring is done by auscultation, Doppler, CTG during labour.
6. For CTG transducers are fixed on your abdomen to monitor FHR & uterine contractions.
7. CTG or continuous electronic fetal monitoring in labour identifies additional abnormal fetal heart rate patterns in relation to uterine contractions in labour which are recorded on graph paper.
8. Using a particular method for FHR monitoring depends on hospital practice.
9. If required ultrasound & color Doppler examinations are done.
10. In our hospital we do not carry out FHR monitoring using scalp electrode and uterine contractions assessment by placing tube in uterus through cervix.
11. In case of abnormal FHR detected urgent delivery of baby may be required. This can be by Cesarean section or if in 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of labour & is favourable for vacuum delivery, by vacuum extraction delivery.

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