

ANTEPARTUM HEMORRAGE

Bleeding into genital tract after 24 weeks of gestation and prior to birth.

Leading cause of perinatal and maternal mortality worldwide.

APH complicates 3–5% of pregnancies.

Failure to identify cause of APH is possible. It is termed Unexplained APH

Bleeding amount of APH is often underestimated, thus assessing sign of shock, presence of fetal compromise/ demise as indicator of volume depletion

Causes:

Obstetric

- Placenta; Placental abruption, Placenta previa. Maternal Bloody show .
- Fetal blood; Vasa previa .
- Uterine rupture.

Non obstetric

Cervical bleeding; cervicitis, neoplasm, polyp

Vagina bleeding :trauma, neoplasm

Gi bleeding; IBS, hemorrhoids

Urinary tract bleeding; stone, cystitis

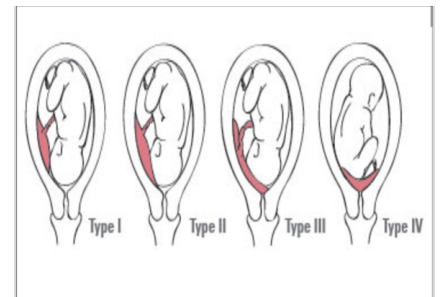
Classification of APH:

- 1- Spotting : staining, streaking or blood spotting noted on underwear or sanitary protection.
- 2- Minor hemorrhage : blood loss <50ml
- 3- Major hemorrhage : blood loss 50-1000 ml
- 4- Massive hemorrhage; blood loss >1000ml or sign of shock

We will discuss placental causes of APH;

1- placenta praevia:

- a. Insertion of the placenta, partially or fully, in the lower segment of the uterus.
- b. 1 : 200-300 incidence
- c. Graded based on location in relation to internal os
 - i. Grade 1: placenta in lower segment not reaching os
 - ii. Grade 2: placenta reaches os but not covering it
 - iii. Grade 3: partially covering os
 - iv. Grade 4: complete coverage of os
- d. Risk factors;
- e. Clinical presentation;
 - i. painless bleeding in 70% of ptn around 30 weeks
 - ii. Soft uterus
 - iii. Normal fetal heart unless severe bleeding
 - iv. Fetal malpresentation
- f. Diagnostics;
 - i. U/S; transabdominal 95% accurate, transvaginal 100%
 - ii. Examination in the **theatre** if no U/S is present using something called (double set up)
 - iii. **Vaginal examination is contraindicated**



Risk factors

- Previous placenta praevia .
- Deficient endometrium due to presence or history of:
 - uterine scar
 - endometritis
 - manual removal of placenta
 - curettage
 - sub mucous fibroid
- Multiparity.
- Advanced maternal age (>40 years).
- Multiple pregnancy.
- Smoking.
- Uterine anomaly.
- Assisted conception

- g.** Maternal/ fetal complication due to Placenta previa
 - i.** Preterm delivery
 - ii.** Preterm PROM
 - iii.** IUGR (if repeated bleeding)
 - iv.** Malpresentation; breech
 - v.** Fetal abnormalities
 - vi.** Maternal death due to uncontrollable hemorrhage
 - vii.** DIC
 - viii.** PPH; APH increases the risk for PPH

2- Placental abruption

- a.** *separation of the placenta from its site of implantation before delivery of the fetus after 24 weeks gestation.*
- b.** Incidence: 1/100-120 deliveries.
- c.** Types: Total or partial, Concealed(On US may show hematoma bw placenta and uterine wall) or revealed
- d. Risk factors;**
- e.** Complications;
 - i.** Fetal;
 1. Fetal hypoxia
 2. Small for gestational age
 3. Fetal growth restriction.
 4. Prematurity (iatrogenic and spontaneous).
 5. Fetal death.
 - ii.** Maternal:
 1. Maternal shock
 2. Anemia
 3. Infection
 4. Renal tubular necrosis
 5. DIC
 6. PPH
 7. Sheehan syndrome.
- f. Clinical presentation:**
 - i.** Painful vaginal bleeding
 - ii.** Uterine tenderness
 - iii.** Fetal distress
 - iv.** High frequency contraction
 - v.** Fetal demise
 - vi.** Hypertonic uterus
- g. Diagnosis is clinical**
 - i.** **U/S just used to confirm fetal viability, measure amniotic fluid and do doppler**
 - ii.** **Also U/S to exclude placenta praevia.**
- h.**

Risk factors

- The most predictive factor is abruption in a previous pregnancy. (it recurs in 4.4% in second pregnancy and 19–25%).
- Pre-eclampsia.
- Polyhydramnios
- advanced maternal age.
- Multiparity
- Low body mass index (BMI).
- Fetal growth restriction.
- Non-vertex presentations.

Risk factors

- Drug misuse (cocaine and amphetamines)
- smoking.
- Intrauterine infection
- Pregnancy following assisted reproductive techniques.
- Premature rupture of membranes.
- Abdominal trauma (both accidental and resulting from domestic violence).
- first trimester bleeding and especially if scan showed a hematoma.
- Maternal thrombophilia.
- Folate deficiency.

3- Vasa plevia

- a. Condition in which the fetal vessels are located in the membranes near the internal os of the cervix, putting them at risk of injury if the membranes rupture
- b. Rupture of vessels can happen with or without membrane rupture
- c. Incidence: 1;3000-5000
- d. Diagnosed by apt test
- e. Difficult to diagnose and ideally diagnosed antenatal by US and doppler
- f. Antenatal management:
 - i. Hospitalization in 3rd trimester
 - ii. Fetal surveillance to detect compression of vessels.
 - iii. Antenatal corticosteroids to promote lung maturity.
 - iv. Elective cesarean at 35-36 weeks
- g. Associated conditions:
 - Low-lying placenta.
 - Bi lobed placenta.
 - Multi-lobed placenta.
 - Succenturiate-lobed placenta.
 - Multiple pregnancies.
 - Pregnancies resulting from IVF

Clinical assessment for APH in general;

- The aim is to establish whether urgent intervention is required
- The mother is the priority before fetus
- Maternal examination & investigation;
- Fetal investigation; US to assess fetal heart, CTG
- Management;
 - Women with spotting, no ongoing bleeding, placenta praevia excluded ; can go home
 - On going bleeding, APH heavier than spotting; admission at least until bleeding stop
 - Antenatal corticosteroids for women at high preterm risk bw 24 week to 34+6 weeks.
 - Tocolysis should not be used to delay delivery in major APH, unstable ptn, fetal compromise.
 - Benefit from use of a tocolytic in ; very preterm ptn, ptn needing to be transferred to hospital with NICU, completion of a full course of corticosteroids.
 - tocolytic therapy is contraindicated in placental abruption and is 'relatively contraindicated' in 'mild haemorrhage' due to placenta praevia.
 - Follow up is important
 - **Vaginal delivery is contraindicated in placenta praevia**
 - Women with APH and associated maternal and/or fetal compromise are required to be delivered immediately.
 - APH, no ongoing bleeding, no fetal/maternal problems, <37 weeks: there is no evidence to support elective premature delivery of the fetus.
 - APH,>37 weeks, ongoing bleeding ; induction of labour to achieve vaginal delivery is advised.
 - PPH should be anticipated

- ergometrine-oxytocin to manage APH, in absence of hypertension.
- Anti-D Ig should be given to all non-sensitized RhD-negative women after any presentation with APH. If recurrent vaginal bleeding consider giving anti D at minimum 6 weeks interval.

UTERINE RUPTURE ①

- It is complete separation of uterine musculature through all of its layers with all or part of the fetus being out side the uterine cavity.
- Reported in 0.07-0.08% of all delivering women, but 0.3-1.7% among women with a history of a uterine scar (from a C/S for example).
- It can be spontaneous or traumatic or due to previous uterine scar
- It can occurs during pregnancy, during first stage or second stage of labor.

Risk factors ②

- The most common risk factor is a previous uterine incision. **(The rate is higher with classical & T-shape uterine incision** in comparison to low vertical & transverse incisions, and repeated CS) .
- High parity.
- Labor complications:
 - 1.CPD.
 - 2.Abnormal presentation.
 - 3.Unusual fetal enlargement (hydrocephalus).

- Trauma.
- Delivery complications:
 - 1.Difficult forceps. ③
 - 2.Breech extraction.
 - 3.Internal podalic version.

Clinical presentation ④

- Sudden onset of acute sever abdominal pain with some vaginal bleeding.
- Absence/ deterioration of fetal heart rate.
- Loss of station of the fetal head from the birth canal.
- Cessation of contractions.
- Easily palpable fetal parts.
- Profound maternal tachycardia and hypotension.

Prognosis ⑤

- Fetal death 50-75% ,common with extrusion.
- Maternal mortality is high if not diagnosed & managed promptly.
- Maternal morbidity: hemorrhage & infection.

Management ⑥

- Stabilization of maternal hemodynamics.
- Prompt C/S with either repair of the uterine defect or hysterectomy(mainly).
- Antibiotics.

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