Inspection and Palpation of the Gravid Abdomen & Understanding the Friedman Curve

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June 2015
Leopold Maneuvers
First Maneuver:
What is the presenting part?
Leopold Maneuvers
Second Maneuver: Where is the back?
Leopold Maneuvers
Third Maneuver:
What is in the fundus?
Leopold Maneuvers
Fourth Maneuver:
Where is the cephalic prominence?
Mechanisms of Labor:
LOT (Left Occiput Transverse)
Onset of Labor
Descent and flexion
Internal rotation: LOT to LOA
(Left Occiput Transverse to Left Occiput Anterior)
Internal rotation: LOA to OA
Extension beginning
Extension complete
Restitution: OA to LOA
External rotation: LOA to LOT
Friedman Curve

• Friedman curve relies on measurements of cervical change and fetal position relative to the ischial spines of the maternal pelvis, dilation of the cervix measured in centimeters, and cervical effacement measured in centimeters or as a percentage of the cervix that has thinned.

• These measurements assume that the presentation of the fetus is vertex; the presentation can also be breech or the lie may be transverse. These latter types of fetal presentation or lie affect the ability of the uterus to contract and of the fetus to descend through the maternal pelvis and thus may predispose to abnormal labor.
Friedman curve

- A graph plotting the progress of labor over time – both active and latent phases.
- Plots cervical dilation and fetal descent over time and is a means of determining whether or not labor is moving along normally.
- If labor is not progressing, several interventions are employed. Oxytocin is used in the case of inadequate contractions.
- Forceps or vacuum extraction are indicated in the event of maternal exhaustion or for nonreassuring fetal heart tracing.
- Cesarean delivery may be needed if there is evidence of cephalopelvic disproportion, fetal malpresentation or fetal intolerance of labor.
Friedman Curve: Components

Figure 2.29. Levels of progress through the pelvis using a scale of -5 to +5.

Graph showing dilatation over time from commencement of labour.
Friedman Curve: Putting it All Together

- Latent Phase
- Active Phase

Cervical Dilatation (cm)

- Abnormal labor curve example
- Normal labor curve
- Engaged

Station (cm)

Time (hours)