Should I Stay or Should I Go? – Emergency Childbirth

Robert Vroman, BS NREMT-P
Robert@Robert-Vroman.com

Objectives
- Discuss maternal assessment
- Review maternal complications
- Discuss stages of labor
- Describe normal delivery
- Discuss delivery complications
- Review resuscitation techniques

Case Review
- 32 year old patient in labor
- 39 weeks gestation
- ETA to scene 6 minutes
- ETA to hospital 20 minutes

Obstetrical Terms
- **G**ravida
- **P**ara
- **A**bortus
- **L**iving

- **G**ravida
- **T**erm
- **P**remature
- **A**bortus
- **L**iving

- Gestation
- Primagravida
- Multigravida
- Nullipara
- Primipara
- Multipara / Grand multipara

Maternal History	
•Length of gestation	
•Last menstrual period	
•Predicted due date	
•GPAL / GTPAL status	
•Prenatal care?	
•Expected complications?	
Questions to Ask	
•Maternal lifestyle	
•Infectious disease status	
•History of previous complications	
•Presence of pain	
•Has your water broken?	
•Are you having contractions?	
•Do you feel the urge to push?	
•Need to have bowel movement	
•Any past history?	
Bleeding	
•Amount	
•Color	
•Pain	

Chief Complaint •Determines the extent of the physical examination	
Physical Exam	
Uterine Size •8 – 10 weeks •12 – 16 weeks •20 – 24 weeks •28 weeks •Term	
Fetal Heart Tones •When •Benefits •Procedure •Normal heart rate –120-160 bpm	
General Management •Imminent birth? •Transport •Positioning •Monitoring •Treatment	

Supine Hypotensive Syndrome	
Causes of Labor	
Stages of Labor •Stage One: •Stage Two: •Stage Three:	
Effacement and Dilation	
Expulsion	
Placental Delivery	
Imminent Delivery	

Preparing for Delivery	
Delivery Equipment	
Pre-Hospital Role •Assist in natural events of childbirth •Responsibilities of EMS crew:	
Managing Delivery	
Umbilical Cord	
Placenta	

Postpartum Hemorrhage	
Delivery Complications	
Fetal Position Breech Delivery Limb Presentation Transverse Lie	
Multiple Gestation	
Premature Labor	
Summary •Most deliveries are uneventful •Basic support and assistance are all that is required •Complicated deliveries are rare •Identification of complicated deliveries is crucial to the safety of the mother and baby •When all else fails…….. take a deep breath!	