Abnormal fetal heart rate

Abnormal FHR auscultated

Confirmatory CTG

Normal CTG
- Baseline FHR 110-160 bpm
- Baseline variability 6-25 bpm
- Accelerations present
- Decelerations absent

Normal?

Assess for reversible causes

Initiate corrective actions Continuous CTG

No

Reversible causes & actions may include:
- Cord compression/reduced placental perfusion due to:
  - Maternal position
  - Maternal hypotension
  - Recent VE, vomiting, epidural, ROM or bedpan use
  Actions
  - Check maternal pulse
  - Position left lateral
  - Check BP
  - Give IV fluids if hypotensive
  - Consider VE to exclude cord prolapse
- Uterine hyperstimulation (tachysystole or hypertonus) due to:
  - Oxytocin infusion
  - Vaginal Prostaglandins
  Actions
  - Cease Oxytocin
  - Remove Prostaglandin
  - Consider tocolysis
- Maternal pyrexia/tachycardia due to:
  - Maternal infection
  - Dehydration
  - Anxiety/inadequate pain relief
  Actions
  - Screen and treat if T ≥ 38°C
  - Check BP and consider fluid replacement
  - Offer analgesia
- Inadequate CTG quality due to:
  - Poor contact from external transducer
  - FSE not working or detached
  Actions
  - Check maternal pulse
  - Reposition transducer
  - Consider FSE

Yes

Individualised care Consider IA

Yes

Problem resolved?

Abnormal FHR auscultated

Confirmatory CTG

Normal?

Assess for reversible causes

Initiate corrective actions Continuous CTG

No

Individualised care Consider IA

Yes

Consider IA
- Continuing CTG
- Obstetrician consult
- FBS if available
- Expediting birth

Fetal Blood Sampling Guide
Normal
- pH ≥ 7.25
- Lactate < 4.2
Borderline: repeat in 30 minutes
- pH 7.21-7.24
- Lactate 4.2-4.8
Abnormal: expedite birth
- pH ≤ 7.20
- Lactate ≥ 4.8
Abnormal: urgent birth
- pH < 7.15
- Lactate ≥ 5.0

Abbreviations: APH Antepartum Haemorrhage; BMI Body Mass Index; CTG Cardiotocograph; FBS Fetal blood sample; FGR Fetal Growth Restriction; GDM Gestational Diabetes; IOL Induction of labour; MoM Multiples of Median; PaPP-A Pregnancy associated plasma protein-A; PROM Premature Rupture of Membranes; PTL Preterm labour; PV Per Vaginal; T Temperature; ≥ greater than or equal to; < Less than; = Equal to; °C Degrees Celsius