

UTERINE TACHYSYSTOLE ALGORITHM FOR USE WITH OXYTOCIN ADMINISTRATION

More than 5 uterine contractions in
10 minutes, (averaged over a 30-minute
window)

YES

NO

Is fetal heart rate
Cat I ?

Continue to increase
oxytocin as ordered

YES

NO

- Maternal reposition (left or right lateral)
- IV bolus 500mL LR
- If uterine activity has not returned to normal 15 minutes after above interventions, decrease oxytocin by at least half; if uterine activity has not returned to normal after 10-15 more minutes, discontinue oxytocin until tachysystole has resolved

- Discontinue oxytocin
- Notify MD/CNM (within 15 minutes)
- Maternal reposition (left or right lateral)
- IV bolus 500mL LR
- Consider O2 10L/min via nonrebreather mask
- If no response, consider Terbutaline 0.25mg subcutaneous

After tachysystole has been resolved

Has oxytocin been
discontinued for less than
30 minutes?

YES

NO (discontinued for 30 minutes or more)

- Resume oxytocin at half the rate that caused the tachysystole.
- Increase as previously ordered

- Resume oxytocin at the initial dose
- Increase as previously ordered