

Emergency delivery

A 22 year old woman presents to the A&E department with severe cramping abdominal pain which she recognises as labour pains. This is her third child and her second child was a rapid but uneventful birth.

What would be your initial actions? (2 marks)

*Call anaesthetist, obstetrician
Check BP and HR, gently examine abdomen
Provide Entonox
Iv access*

Before transfer to Labour ward can be arranged baby's head starts to appear at the vagina. Describe the process of Delivery (6 marks)

*Put on sterile gloves. Stand on patient's right.
When head crowns, encourage mother to stop bearing down. Encourage rapid shallow breaths
Use left hand to control rate of emergence of head
With right hand press on either side of anus with thumb and fingers
Once head is delivered, allow it to extend
Feel for cord around neck. If possible slip it over, if not, divide and clamp
Allow anterior shoulder to deliver first
Give 5U oxytocin and 500 mcg syntometrine im
Deliver baby*

If the baby's head emerges but the shoulder does not, what action should you take? (2 marks)

*Shoulder dystocia:
Lay mother flat and bend knees up onto chest
Apply gentle digital pressure to try to deliver anterior shoulder. Gently bend baby's neck towards mother's anus*