Table 1. Risk of acidemia, evolution of FHR patterns to more serious risk, and recommended action

	Risk of acidemia	Risk of evolution	Action
Green	0	Very low	None
Blue	0	Low	Conservative techniques* and begin preparation
Yellow	0	Moderate	Conservative techniques* and increased surveillance
Orange	Borderline/acceptably low	High	Conservative techniques* and prep for urgent delivery
Red	Unacceptably high	Not a consideration	Deliver

* See Table 2 in Intrapartum Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring: Interpretation and Management. Clinical Practice Guideline No. 10. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Obstet Gynecol 2025;146: 583-599.

Adapted with permission from Parer JT, Ikeda T. A framework for standardized management of intrapartum fetal heart rate patterns. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2007;197:26.e1–6. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2007.03.037

Table 2. Risk categories for fetal acidemia related to fetal heart rate variability, baseline rate, and presence of recurrent decelerations

Variable	No	Early	Mild VD	Moder-ate VD	Severe VD	Mild LD	Moder-ate LD	Severe LD	Mild PD	Moder-ate PD	Severe PD
Moderate (normal) variability											
Tachycardia	B	B	B	Y	O	Y	Y	O	Y	Y	O
Normal	G	G	G	B	Y	B	Y	Y	Y	Y	O
Mild bradycardia	Y	Y	Y	Y	O	Y	Y	O	Y	Y	O
Moderate bradycardia	Y	Y			O		O	O			O
Severe bradycardia	O	O			O			O			O
Minimal variability											
Tachycardia	B	Y	Y	O	O	O	O	R	O	O	O
Normal	B	B	Y	O	O	O	O	R	O	O	R
Mild bradycardia	O	O	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Moderate bradycardia	O	O			R		R	R			R
Severe bradycardia	R	R			R			R			R
Absent variability											
Tachycardia	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Normal	O	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Mild bradycardia	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Moderate bradycardia	R	R			R		R	R			R
Severe bradycardia	R	R			R			R			R

Sinusoidal	R
Marked variability	Y

Abbreviation: *VD*, variable decelerations; *LD*, late decelerations; *PD*, prolonged decelerations; *G*, green; *B*, blue; *Y*, yellow; *O*, orange; *R*, red.

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