

Conditions predisposing to asphyxia

■ Obstetric situations

1. Prolapse of the cord or cord entanglement
2. Abnormal uterine contractions
3. Difficulty with delivery of shoulders
4. Prolonged second stage of labour
5. Prolonged delay after rupture of membranes

■ Maternal factors

1. Maternal age >35 years
2. Grande multipara
3. Disease in the mother, such as diabetes or toxæmia
4. Sedation or anaesthetic administered to the mother

■ Signs of fetal distress

1. Meconium stained liquor
2. Tachycardia (>160/min) or bradycardia (<100/min)

■ Effect of drugs given to the mother

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