



Clinical Practice Guidelines: Obstetrics/Uterine rupture

Policy code	CPG_OB_UR_0418
Date	April, 2018
Purpose	To ensure consistent management of uterine inversion.
Scope	Applies to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
Health care setting	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
Population	Applies to all ages unless stated otherwise.
Source of funding	Internal – 100%
Author	Clinical Quality & Patient Safety Unit, QAS
Review date	April, 2021
Information security	UNCLASSIFIED – Queensland Government Information Security Classification Framework.
URL	https://ambulance.qld.gov.au/clinical.html

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Uterine rupture

April, 2018

Uterine rupture is defined as a tearing of the uterine wall during pregnancy or birth. Whilst the occurrence of uterine rupture is low, it is one of the most life-threatening obstetric emergencies, with a high rate of both foetal and maternal mortality. Uterine rupture should be suspected if there is:^[1]

- evidence of maternal shock
- difficulty defining the uterus on palpation
- easily palpable foetal parts

Other than a history of Caesarean section or uterine surgery, risk factors include:^[2,3]

- trauma
- uterine anomalies
- dystocia
- use of uterotonic drugs (induced labour)
- abnormal placentation
- advanced maternal age
- high birth weight ^[1,2,3]

Clinical features



Clinical presentation can vary from subtle to severe:

- uterine tenderness
- non-reassuring foetal heart patterns
- loss of intrauterine pressure or cessation of contractions
- abnormal labour or failure to progress
- severe localised abdominal pain
- vaginal bleeding
- maternal hypovolaemic shock

Risk assessment



- Nil

