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Obstetrics and Pediatrics

FETAL ACIDOSIS Values in fetal scalp, maternal antecubital vein, and umbilical artery and vein blood were measured in 33 patients and fetuses during labor to determine acid-base status and oxygen saturation. Fetal scalp blood pH was the best measurement of fetal well-being during labor. The pH of blood from the umbilical vein was a good indicator at the time of delivery. Fetal oxygen tensions fluctuated rapidly and widely but did not result in fetal acidosis unless the hypoxia was severe and prolonged. (Kerenyi, T. D., and others: Acid-Base Balance and Oxygen Saturation of Fetal Scalp Blood during Normal and Abnormal Labors, Obstet. Gynec. 35: 398 (Sept.) 1970.)