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Neonatology

FETAL LUNG MATURITY Amniotic fluid total phospholipid phosphorus (TPP) levels are quicker and easier to measure than quantitative lecithin phosphorus (Lec. P) levels for assessing fetal maturity. Between 30 weeks gestation and term, there is a eightfold increase in TPP and a tenfold increase in Lec. P. At delivery a high correlation is found between simultaneous measurements of TPP and Lec. P. Low levels of either TPP or Lec. P are associated with an increased risk of associated RDS. TPP levels greater than 0.14 mg/100 ml are recommended as evidence of fetal pulmonary maturity. (Nelson, G.H.: *Determination of Amniotic Fluid Total Phospholipid Phosphorus as a Test for Fetal Lung Maturity. Am J Obstet Gynecol* 115: 933-941, 1973.)