

BREECH DELIVERY

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

1. Labor
2. Presentation without hair
3. Buttock, arm or feet visible
4. Pulsating presentation part

OBTAIN HISTORY OF:

1. Pregnancy/Prenatal care
2. Due date
3. Possibility of multiple births
4. Previous breech deliveries or OB complications
5. Pelvic tumors
6. Drug or alcohol use
7. Past trauma

PRECAUTIONS:

1. If the umbilical cord is compressed and the infant is in distress, the provider can cause birth trauma by attempting to deliver the infant too rapidly.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT CARE:

1. Maintain universal blood and body substance precautions
2. Identify the need for imminent delivery or need for immediate transportation:
 - A. If delivery is not imminent, transport patient to hospital of choice, if 20-32 weeks bring mother to nearest facility with Level III nursery (United, St. John's, or ANW). Place mother in left lateral recumbent position.
 - B. If delivery is imminent but not possible, transport the mother to the nearest hospital with surgery facilities or where emergent plans have been prepared for her care. Place mother in Trendelenburg position to slow delivery
 - C. If delivery is imminent, position mother for delivery, prepare a clean field, allow delivery up to the level of the umbilicus and if in the front position extract the legs downward after the buttocks is delivered, support the baby's body with the palm of the hand and forearm, gently extract a 4"-6" loop of umbilical cord to allow delivery, gently rotate the baby to align the shoulders in an anterior-posterior position and deliver the shoulders, avoid excessive head and spine movement or traction when the head is delivered; if the head does not deliver, place a gloved hand into the vagina with palm towards the baby's face and form a "V" on either side of the baby's nose making a space for air to enter. Place mother on high flow oxygen
3. EMT with IV training - start IV TKO
4. After Birth, follow guidelines for newborn infant:
 - A. Be prepared to suction and support infants airway and ventilations
 - B. Warm and dry infant
 - C. Treat mother for hemorrhage

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT CARE: In addition to above and as appropriate:

1. Contact Medical Control Physician for pain management

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. Inform the hospital as soon as possible of your patient so they can prepare for their arrival.
2. APGAR scores are typically lower, especially at 1 minute, after a breech delivery.
3. Incidence of breech delivery is higher during the 21-28 weeks of gestation, so low birth weight can be a concern for the baby.
4. Intracranial hemorrhage, injury to the spinal cord, liver, adrenals and spleen are possible during a breech delivery.