

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

FF-3 DELIVERY COMPLICATIONS

ALS/ILS/BLS

1. Breech Birth:
 - 1.1. A double footling or frank breech presentation generally delivers in 3 stages:
 - 1.1.1. Legs.
 - 1.1.2. Abdomen.
 - 1.2.3. Abdomen to shoulders.
 - 1.2.4. Head.
 - 1.2.5. Infants are at risk for hypoxia due to cord compression.
 - 1.2. Initial Medical Care:
 - 1.2.1. 100% oxygen.
 - 1.2.2. ALS:
 - 1.2.2.1. Initiate IV of NS or LR at a TKO rate.
 - 1.3. Prepare for delivery if birth is imminent.
 - 1.3.1. Refer to Emergency Childbirth (FF-1) SOP.
 - 1.4. Rapid transport:
 - 1.4.1. It is acceptable to stay on the scene while attempting delivery of the head and only to the shoulders of the baby.
 - 1.4.2. If en-route, stop the vehicle to attempt delivery of the head.
 - 1.5. Notify medical control and receiving hospital.
2. Delivery:
 - 2.1. As soon as the legs are delivered:
 - 2.1.1. Support the baby's body and wrap in a towel.
 - 2.1.2. If the cord is accessible:
 - 2.1.2.1. Palpate frequently for pulsations.
 - 2.1.3. Attempt to loosen the cord to create slack for delivery of the head.
 - 2.2. After the torso and shoulders are delivered:
 - 2.2.1. Gently sweep down the arms.
 - 2.2.2. If face is down:
 - 2.2.2.1. Gently elevate the legs and trunk to facilitate delivery of the head.
 - 2.2.2.2. Do not hyperextend the neck.
 - 2.2.3. Applying firm pressure over the mother's fundus will facilitate delivery of the head.
 - 2.3. The head should deliver in 30 seconds (with the next contraction). If not:
 - 2.3.1. Place 2 gloved fingers into the vagina to locate the baby's mouth and pull chin down.
 - 2.3.2. Then push vaginal wall away from baby's mouth to form an airway.
 - 2.3.3. Keep your fingers in place and transport immediately.
 - 2.3.4. Alert the receiving hospital of the baby's position.
 - 2.3.5. Keep delivered portion of baby's body warm and dry.
 - 2.4. If head delivers:
 - 2.4.1. Anticipate neonatal distress and follow appropriate SOP.
 - 2.5. Anticipate the need for maternal hemorrhage control after the birth of the infant.
 - 2.5.1. Refer to Newborn and Post Partum care (FF-4) SOP.

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(continued)

3. Note:
 - 3.1. Single limb presentation (arm, leg) or other abnormal presentations may require C-Section.
 - 3.2. Do Not Attempt Delivery in the Field.
 - 3.3. Rapid transport.

4. Prolapsed Cord:
 - 4.1. Initial Medical Care.
 - 4.2. Rapid transport.
 - 4.3. Notify medical control and receiving facility.
 - 4.4. Elevate the mother's hips.
 - 4.5. Instruct patient to "pant" with contractions.
 - 4.6. Cover the exposed cord with a moist dressing and keep warm.
 - 4.7. Palpate the cord frequently for pulsations.