

# Types of Perinatal Loss

## Ectopic pregnancy

- Implantation of the fertilized ovum in a site other than the endometrial lining of the uterus
- Molar pregnancy (Hydatidiform mole)
- A form of Gestational trophoblastic neoplasia. Condition in which a rapid growth of trophoblastic cells result in a mass of tissue versus an embryo/placenta - characterized by hydropic (fluid filled) clusters
  - Lowdermilk, (2020) pgs. 605-606
- Maybe complete (fertilization of the egg has been lost – contains no fetus, placenta, amniotic membrane or fluid) or partial (may have identifiable fetal parts)
- Usually presents itself prior to 12 weeks gestation
- Chance of developing choriocarcinoma

## Blighted ovum

- Gestational sac is seen but the embryo has not developed
- Miscarriage
- The word miscarriage is the lay term for a spontaneous abortion which usually occurs prior to 20 weeks gestation
- Statistically, 80% of miscarriages occur at or prior to 12 weeks gestation
- Over 50% of documented miscarriages are related to chromosomal abnormalities
  - Davidson, (2020) pgs. 387-388
  - Lowdermilk (2020) pg. 807

## Silent abortion or miscarriage

- Loss of the pregnancy after implantation, positive pregnancy test but no clinical recognition via ultrasound. The woman often experiences this as a late-timed menses
- Threatened abortion
- Unexplained bleeding or cramping. Cervix is closed but no tissue has been expelled
- Imminent abortion
- Bleeding and cramping increases and the cervix is dilated. Possible rupture of membranes and expulsion of some tissue may occur
  - Davidson (2020) pgs. 387-388

## Incomplete abortion

- Expulsion of part of the pregnancy. Partial products of conception or placenta are retained, and the cervix is dilated.

## Complete abortion

- All products of conception are expelled.
- Uterus is contracted and the cervix is now closed.

## Missed abortion

- Fetus dies in utero but is not expelled. Uterine growth ceases. If the fetus is not expelled within 4 weeks, fetal autolysis may result in the release of thromboplastin and DIC [Disseminated intravascular coagulation] may develop

## Septic Abortion

- In the presence of an infection

## Recurrent pregnancy loss (RPL) – Formerly called habitual abortion

- Early abortions that occur consecutively in two or three pregnancies with the same male partner/sperm donor

## Fetal death

- Any death of a fetus prior to birth after 20 weeks gestation
- Fetal deaths are subdivided as early; 20 to 27 weeks gestation, and or late; greater than or equal to 28 weeks gestation
- Occurrences of late fetal deaths has decreased

## Stillbirth

- A fetal death occurring at 20 weeks gestation or greater

## Serious Fetal Diagnosis

- Newer term in perinatology
- A diagnosis by ultrasound of a fetal anomaly later in the pregnancy (18-20 weeks gestation).
  - Lowdermilk (2020) pgs. 807-80

## Termination of Pregnancy

- Refers to the ending of a pregnancy. Termination of pregnancy remains controversial within the realm of women's health. Patients who have experienced or are experiencing a termination of pregnancy require sensitive attention.
  - Lowdermilk (2020) pg. 808

## Neonatal Death

- Any death of a live newborn up to 28 days of life.
- Neonatal deaths are subdivided as early neonatal death which is a neonatal death fewer than seven days old and late neonatal death, a neonatal death 7-28 days old.

## Infant death

- A live birth of a child who dies within the first year