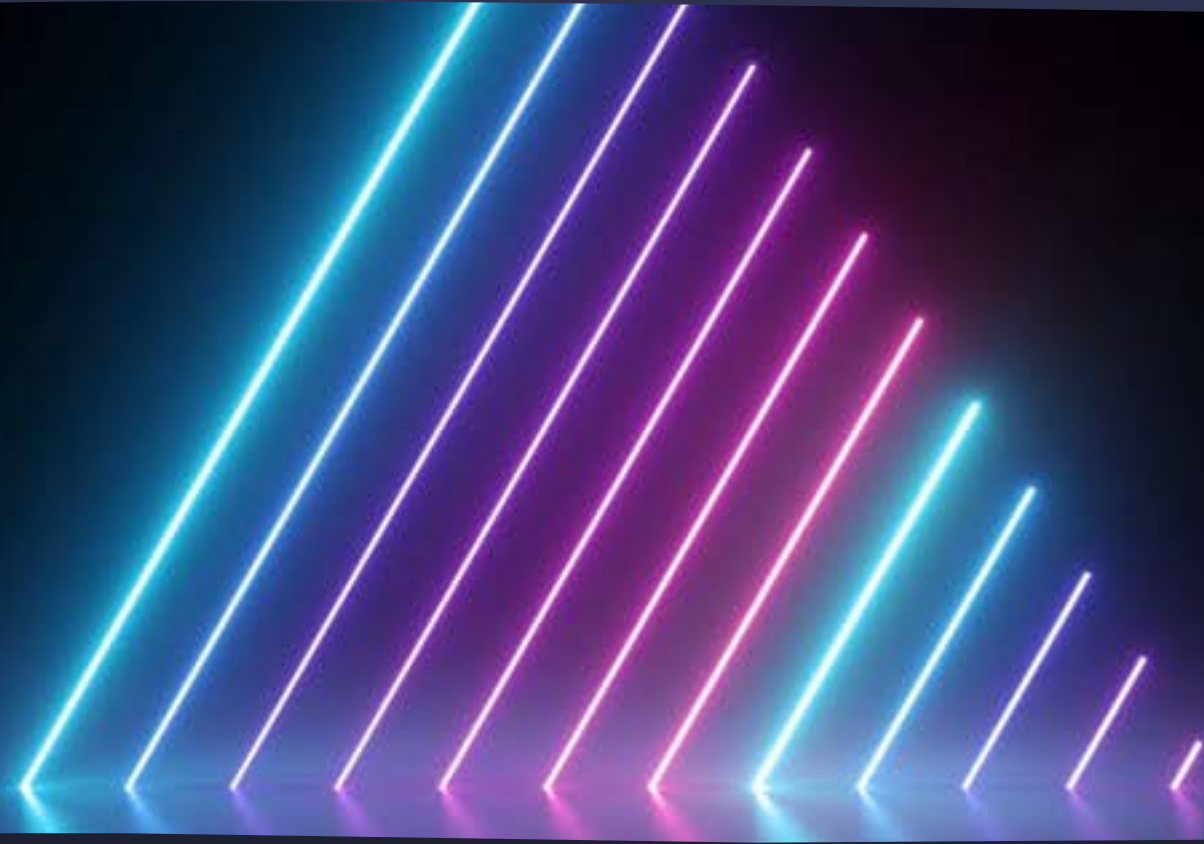


Hormones in Labor



Labor process is impacted by a complex interplay of a variety of hormones

Oxytocin



Endorphins

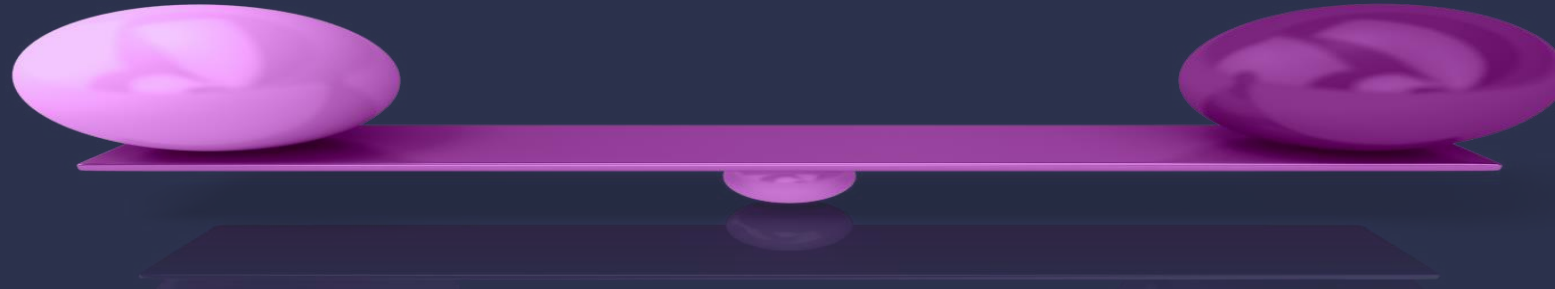


Catecholamines



Prolactin





The balance of these hormones determine effects on:

Labor
progress

Maternal
postpartum
mental health

Mother-infant
interaction

Initiation of
breastfeeding

Oxytocin

Endorphins

Catecholamines

Prolactin



How does Oxytocin help in labor??



Womb Potato



Eviction Notice



What's Out There?



Agorababia



Overdue

Oxytocin

Known as the
"Love" hormone

Creates a feeling of
calm, connection &
closeness

Evokes feelings of
wellbeing & love

Contributes to
uterine contractions

Influences letdown
of breastmilk

Reduces pain
perception &
memory of aversive
experiences

How do
endorphins help
in labor??



Endorphins

Morphine-like hormone

Increases with: pain, exertion, stress & fear

Tend to counteract associated unpleasant feelings

Help create a trance-like state

Contribute to the "high" feeling that some mothers feel after an unmedicated birth

Have euphoric effects

Catecholamines

Stress hormones

Known as "Fight-or-Flight" hormones

Includes:
epinephrine,
norepinephrine &
cortisol

Secreted when a
woman is
frightened or angry
or perceives danger

Enables women to
endure or flee
dangerous
situations

Suppression of
oxytocin effects



How does
prolactin help?



Prolactin

The nesting hormone

Prepares the breasts for breastfeeding

Key in the production of breast milk

Has calming and mood elevating effects on mother



Questions

