**Obstetrics and Neonatology**

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Obstetrics is the branch of medicine that deals with childbirth and the care of the mother before and after birth. Neonatology is the branch of medicine that deals with the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the newborn.

Let’s start with the terms relating to pregnancy –

Gamete is a mature germ cell. This would be sperm for male and ovum for female.

Ovulation is the process of expulsion of a mature ovum from an ovary.

Conception or fertilization is the beginning of pregnancy.

A zygote is a cell formed by the union of the sperm and ovum.

The gestation period is the period from conception to birth.

Implantation is the term for the embedding of the zygote in the uterine lining.

An embryo is an unborn offspring from implantation to the end of the second month of pregnancy.

A fetus is referred to as an unborn offspring from beginning of the third month of pregnancy until birth.

The amniotic sac surrounds the fetus before delivery. The outermost layer of the fetal membrane is the chorion. The innermost layer of the fetal membrane is the amnion.

The placenta grows on the wall of the uterus during pregnancy; and provides nourishment to the unborn child.

Here are some the most common combining forms in Obstetrics and Neonatology:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combining Form</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>amni/o, amnion/o</td>
<td>amnion, amniotic fluid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cephal/o</td>
<td>head</td>
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<tr>
<td>chori/o</td>
<td>chorion</td>
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<tr>
<td>embryo/o</td>
<td>embryo, to be full</td>
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<tr>
<td>esophag/o</td>
<td>esophagus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fet/o, fet/i</td>
<td>fetus, unborn child</td>
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<tr>
<td>gravid/o</td>
<td>pregnancy</td>
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<tr>
<td>lact/o</td>
<td>milk</td>
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The following are common prefixes used with obstetrics and neonatology:

- ante-, pre- before
- micro- small
- mult/i many
- nulli none
- post- after

Let’s continue with suffixes:

- -amnios amnion, amniotic fluid
- -cyesis pregnancy
- -partum childbirth, labor
- -rrhexis rupture
- -tocia birth, labor

Let’s start to break our terms down for this unit:

**Amnionitis** – *itis* means inflammation, *amnion/o* means amnion; so amnionitis is inflammation of the amnion.

**Amniotomy** – *tomy* means incision, *amnion/o* means amnion; so amniotomy means incision in the amnion (induction of labor).
Choriocarcinoma – *carcinoma* means cancerous tumor, *chori/o* means chorion; so choriocarcinoma means cancerous tumor of the chorion.

Lactogenic – *genic* means producing, *lact/o* means milk; so lactogenic means producing milk.

Multigravida – *gravid* is pregnancy, *multi* is many; so multigravida is primigravida is many pregnancies (referring to two or more times).

Neonate – *nat/o* is birth, *neo* is new; so a neonate is a new birth or newborn (from birth to 4 weeks).

Neonatologist – *logist* means one who studies and treats (specialist, physician), *neo* is new, *nat/o* is birth; so a neonatologist is a physician who studies and treats disorders of the newborn.

Omphalocele – *cele* is hernia or protrusion, *omphal/o* is umbilicus or navel; so omphalocele is herniation at the umbilicus.

Postpartum – *post* is after, *part/o* is childbirth; so postpartum is after childbirth.

Primigravida – *gravid/o* is pregnancy, *prim/i* is first; so primigravida is the first pregnancy.

Primipara – *par/o* is to bear, give birth to, labor, childbirth; *prim/i* is first; so primipara is the first birth.

Pseudocyesis – *pseudo* is false, *cyesis* is pregnancy; so pseudocyesis is a false pregnancy.

Salpingocyesis – *cyesis* is pregnancy, *salping/o* is fallopian tube; so salpingocyesis is a pregnancy occurring in the fallopian tube, known as an ectopic pregnancy.

Terms not built from word parts:

**Congenital anomaly** – abnormality present at birth

**Erythroblastosis fetalis** – condition is usually caused by incompatibility of the infant’s and mother’s blood; occurring when the mother’s blood is Rh-negative and the infant’s blood is Rh-positive

**Meconium** – the first stool of the newborn

**Puerperium** – period from delivery until the reproductive organs return to normal (it take approximately six weeks)

Abbreviations associated with Obstetrics and Neonatology:

- **C/S, C-section**: cesarean section
- **EDD**: expected date of delivery
- **LMP**: last menstrual period
- **LNMP**: last normal menstrual period
<table>
<thead>
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<td>multip</td>
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<td>NB</td>
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<td>OB</td>
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<td>RDS</td>
<td>respiratory distress syndrome</td>
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