

# Obstetric analgesia and anaesthesia

## Excerpta Medica - Obstetric analgesia and anesthesia — UTMB Health Research Expert Profiles



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### ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 209: Obstetric Analgesia and Anesthesia

Under appropriate physician supervision, labor and delivery nursing personnel who have been educated properly and have demonstrated current competence should be able to participate in the management of epidural infusions.

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Labor pain may cause significant physiological effects on the mother, fetus, and labor course. This discussion should begin during the prenatal period to ensure that the woman has an opportunity to make an informed choice. General anesthesia is used in obstetric practice when regional anesthesia is contraindicated or when a maternal or fetal emergency requires a rapid, reliable anesthetic.

### Obstetric Analgesia and Anesthesia

Labor analgesia must ensure maternal and fetal safety, be adjusted to individual pain tolerances, and accommodate the evolving nature of labor pain and delivery.

### ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 209: Obstetric Analgesia and Anesthesia

AB - This chapter provides an overview of obstetric analgesia and anesthesia clinical techniques that offer significant benefit to laboring patients and are essential for operative delivery.

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Opioids are the most widely used systemic medications for labor anesthesia due to their low cost, ease of use, and lack of need for specialized equipment or personnel. If cesarean section is necessary, consideration of regional or general anesthesia is appropriate. A woman who requests epidural analgesia during labor should not be deprived of this service based on the status of her health insurance.

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Many women desire pain management during labor and delivery, and there are many medical indications for analgesia and anesthesia during labor and delivery. There is no other circumstance in which it is considered acceptable for an individual to experience untreated severe pain that is amenable to safe intervention while the individual is under a physician's care. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists believes that in order to allow the maximum number of patients to benefit from neuraxial analgesia, labor nurses should not be restricted from participating in the management of pain relief during labor.

### **Obstetric Analgesia and Anesthesia**

ABSTRACT: Labor causes severe pain for many women. Effective management of labor pain requires an understanding of the dynamic labor process. A woman who requests epidural analgesia during labor should not be deprived of this service based on the status of her health insurance.

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