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GENERAL OBSTETRICAL INFORMATION

As your obstetricians, we try to provide you with optimum prenatal care. As part of the prenatal care, we try to make you aware of information that would be pertinent to your pregnancy. As a pregnant patient, you need to be informed of a number of factual matters, and we have summarized some of these that we feel are important for you to know.

I. CESAREAN SECTIONS

The Cesarean Section rate in Houston, Texas is about average for the hospitals in Harris County. This rate is somewhat higher than the C-section rate at a County Hospital, but lower than some of the referral centers, i.e. the Medical Center. C-Section rates vary from hospital to hospital, as well as from county to county, and country to country. The C-Section rate depends on many factors, for example, whether the baby is breech or vertex. Another factor is whether the baby is pre-term. Twins, triplets, or placental location (i.e. placenta previa) are other factors that may result in C-Section.

II. FETAL ANOMALIES

Fetal anomalies occur in about three percent of live born infants. Certain tests such as ultrasonography, non-invasive prenatal testing, first trimester screening, maternal serum alpha-fetoprotein, chorionic villus sampling, and amniocentesis are a few tests that exist to aid in diagnosis of such anomalies. The benefits and risks of these procedures to the pregnant woman will be discussed with you. It is important to know that while some fetal anomalies may be detected by the tests listed and some might not.

III. INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence is a multifactorial trait, and even optimum obstetrical care cannot guarantee normal intelligence or even freedom from central nervous system defects such as cerebral palsy.

IV. HIGH RISK PREGNANCY

A routine pregnancy can become high risk quickly and without warning. One example is a case of premature rupture of membranes or premature labor. Should this occur, the pregnant patient may rapidly be confronted with a series of complex and agonizing decisions. The physician will participate with the patient and family in arriving at a decision on the management of any such situation.

V. HOME DELIVERY

We do not participate in home deliveries at this time, nor do we anticipate doing them in the near future.

VI. PATIENT'S CHOICE

Every woman has a legal right to an abortion. The precise gestational age at which abortion is effectively available varies from state to state. If information on this subject is required, it will be made available.

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO DISCUSS ANY OR ALL OF THE ABOVE MATTERS IF YOU SO DESIRE.