Informed consent in obstetrics

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INTRODUCTION

Clinicians have a legal and ethical responsibility to provide patients with adequate information that they can process and use to make appropriate decisions about their clinical care. During pregnancy, informed consent can be described as the process of decision-making between a patient and the health care provider regarding the clinical management of the pregnancy. The goals of the informed consent process are to empower the patient with information about benefits and risks that are needed for an informed choice about authorizing specific clinical management and is typically required for clinical circumstances of increased clinical risk (eg, cesarean birth, chorionic villus sampling) and to support the patient to make voluntary decisions [1,2].

This topic will discuss general issues related to informed consent during pregnancy. Informed consent in other settings is reviewed separately:

- (See "Cesarean birth on patient request", section on 'Ethical issues'.)
- (See "Choosing the route of delivery after cesarean birth", section on 'Factors to consider in patient-centered decision-making'.)
- (See "Informed procedural consent".)

Group Practice

Patient or Caregiver

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