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Thinking of fetal monitors, people tend to visualize pregnant women with strips attached to their body for the purpose of monitoring development of the babies. This also includes an indirect monitoring of the mothers as it involves conducting a thorough check up of their bodies and internal mechanisms.

Fetal monitors are generally set up under the observation of reliable nurses and doctors. However, this is not a mandatory practice and most people even buy or rent them for setting up at homes. There are a lot of options for purchasing these kinds of monitors, the most expensive of which may cost around $500. For people who find it an expensive one time investment, there are also several agents and companies who give these machines on rent for around $50 - $70 per month.

Different Kinds of Fetal Monitors

There are four fundamental types of monitoring equipment of procedures on the basis of which fetal monitoring is differentiated:

1. Doppler Monitoring: This kind of monitoring basically involves use of a handheld ultrasound device via which the nurse or the doctor can measure the heart beat or pulse race of the fetus. These devices are more popularly known as â€˜Dopplersâ€™. Doppler monitoring is considered to be a very hassle free and an uncomplicated procedure of monitoring the mother and fetus during pregnancy or when in labor.

2. External Electronic Monitoring: This procedure generally involves putting of two-belt ultrasound device sort of a thing around the stomach of the pregnant mother. This process gives a more detailed account of the overall development of the mother and fetus, as one can observe each and every beat of the fetus in connection with the motherâ€™s contractions. However, this process is prone to a certain degree of error as it makes use of the ultrasound technique, especially in cases where the sensor does not connect with the body movements of the mother.

3. Internal Monitoring: Internal monitoring is a much more reliable procedure than the external one, especially because of the fact that it does not make use of the ultrasound device. This procedure can also be performed for a continuous period of time. However, for this process, it is essential that the motherâ€™s water is broken. In this kind of monitoring, an electrode is placed on the fetusâ€™ scalp to observe its pulse rate. A catheter to measure the blood pressure and contractions of the mother is also placed. This practice is generally advised for pregnant mothers bearing high risk.

4. Telemetry Monitoring: This procedure of monitoring is a comparatively new procedure of fetal monitoring, which makes use of radio waves for observing the pulse rates of the fetus and the mother. A transmitter is attached to the thigh of the pregnant mother, which is used to send constant beats of the babyâ€™s heart to the nurseâ€™s station. Even this procedure can be used for a continuous period and allows sufficient scope of mobility to the mother. However, because this technology is new, it may not be readily available at most of the hospitals.

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