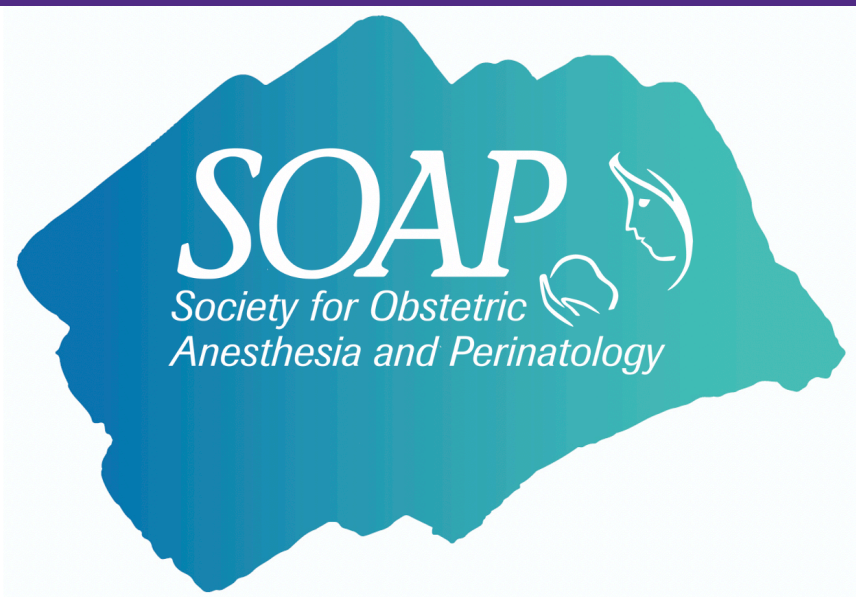


Blood Return in Epidural Catheter, Followed by Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation: A Case Report



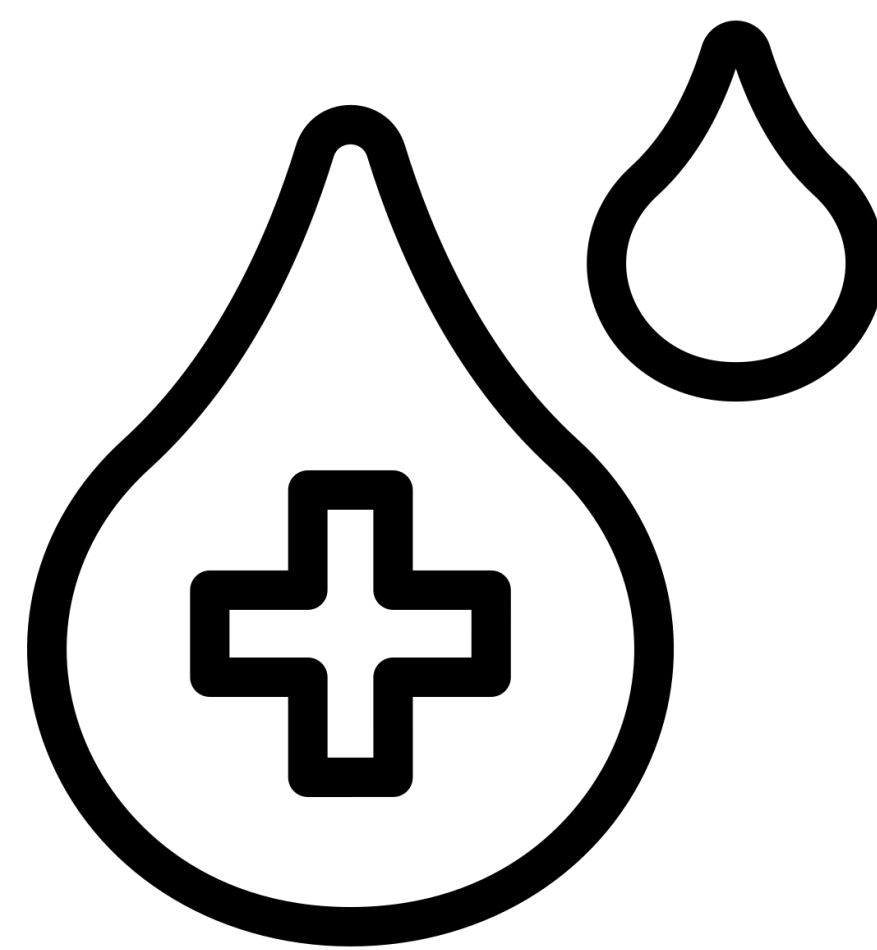
Eleanor Kenny MD, Caroline Thomas, MD, Joseph Bavaro, MD

Division of Obstetric Anesthesiology, Department of Anesthesiology, Northwestern Memorial Hospital



Background

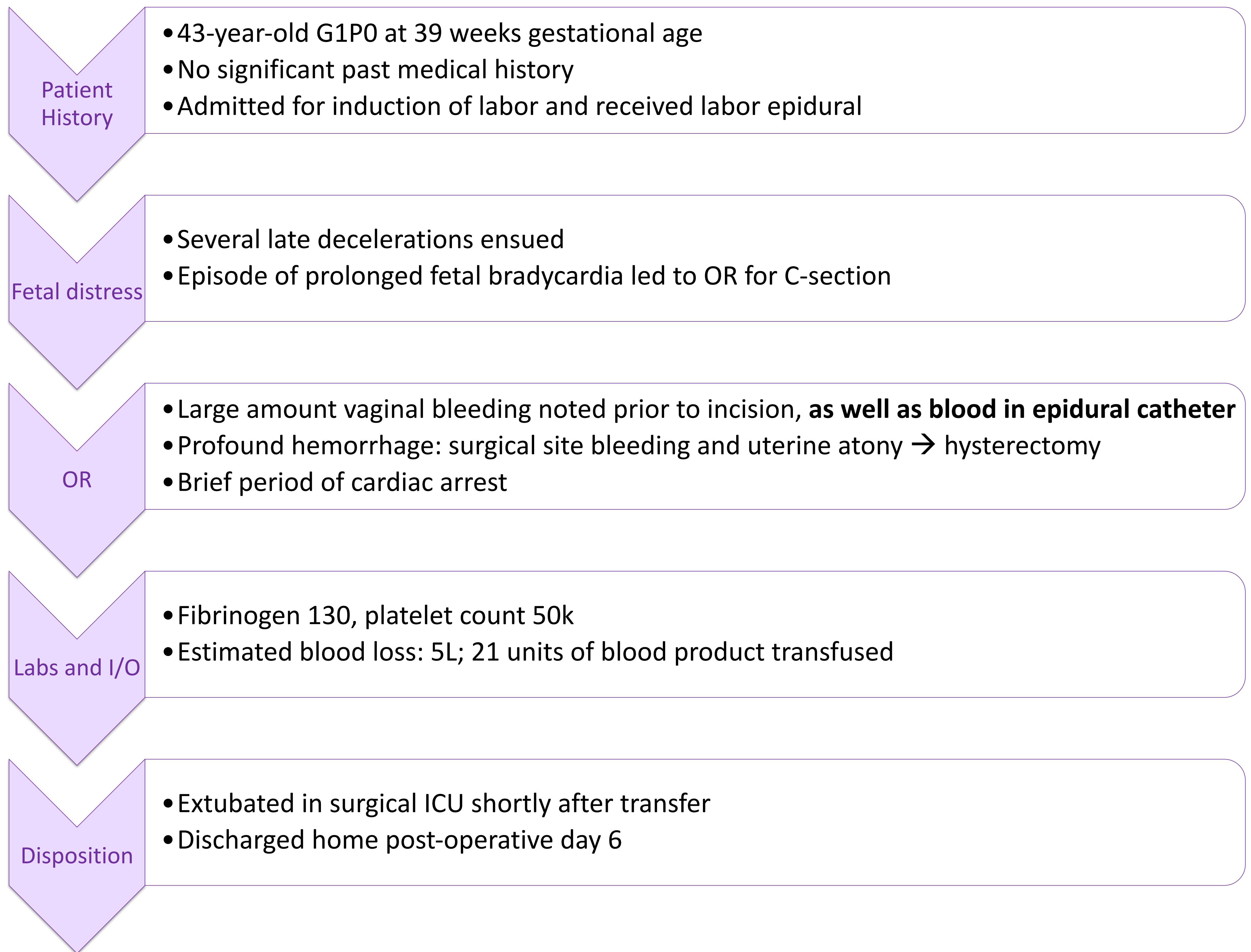
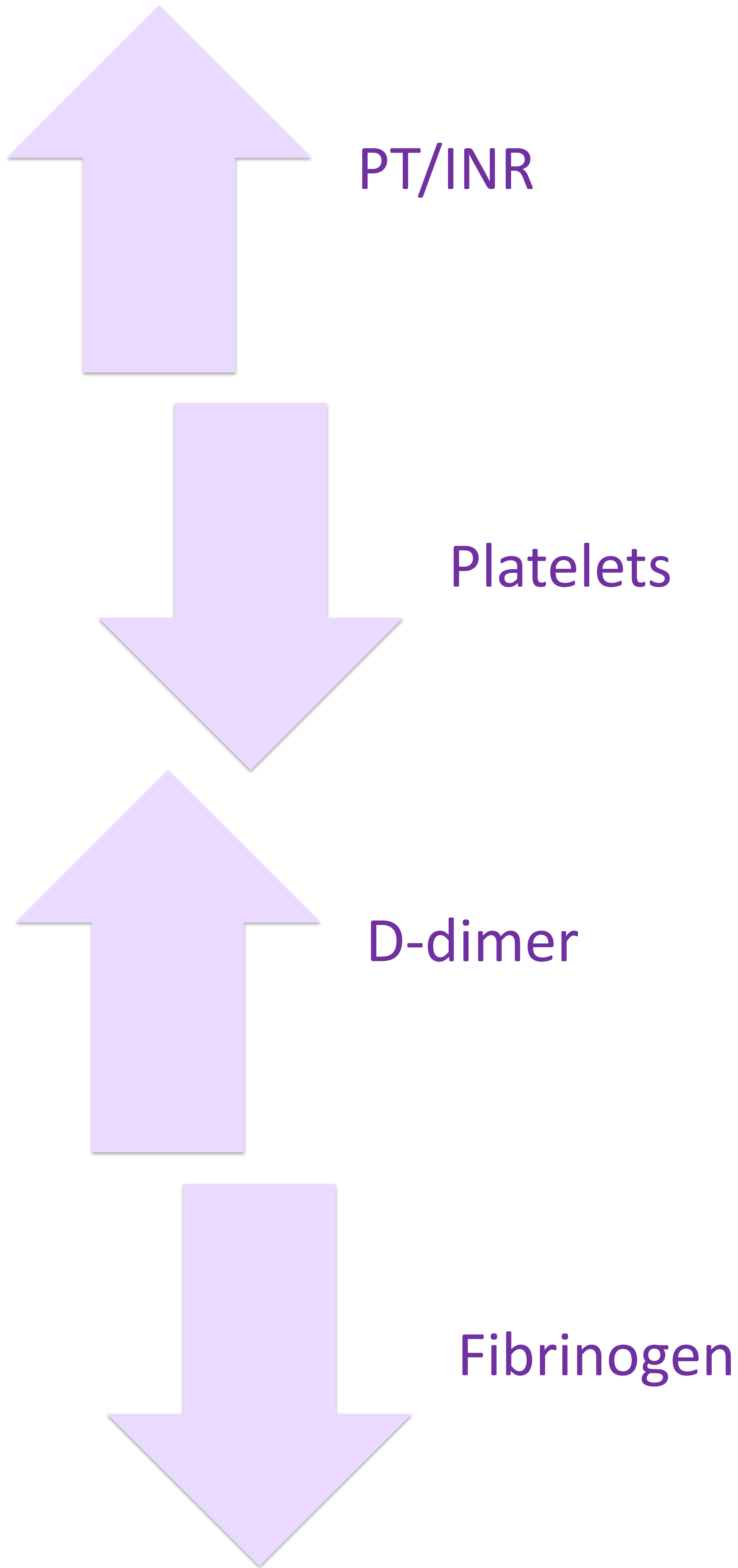
- Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC) is a disease process associated with increased degradation and impaired synthesis of coagulation and anticoagulation proteins
- Characterized by widespread bleeding and thrombosis



Pregnancy Complications Associated with DIC¹

- Acute Peripartum hemorrhage (uterine atony, surgical bleeding, uterine rupture)
- Placental abruption
- Preeclampsia/eclampsia/hemolysis, elevated liver enzymes, HELLP
- Retained stillbirth
- Septic abortion and intrauterine infection
- Amniotic fluid embolism
- Acute fatty liver of pregnancy

Case Presentation

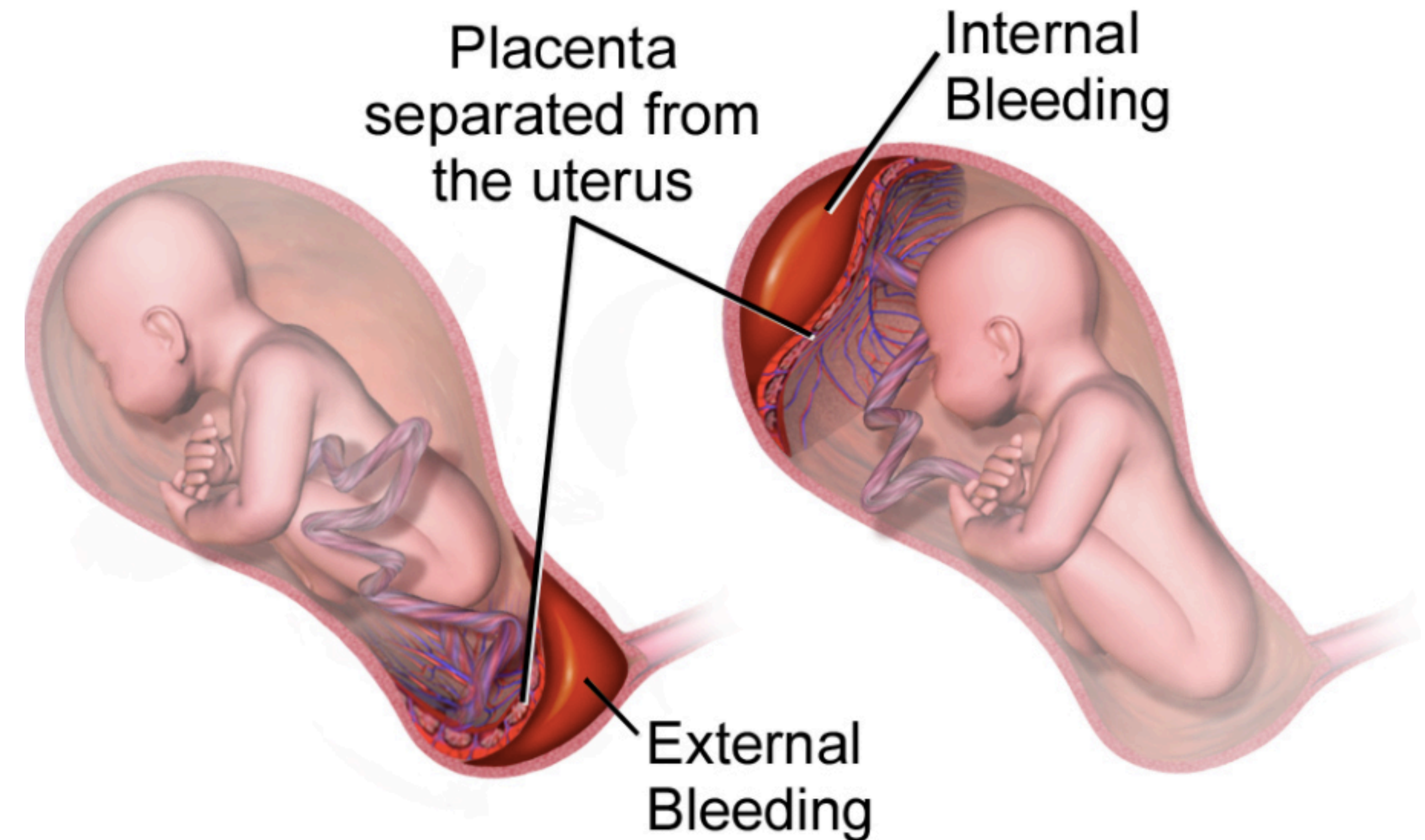


Discussion

- DIC is a major cause of maternal morbidity and mortality
- Occurs in 12.5 per 10,000 deliveries²
- Prompt diagnosis is necessary
- Typical DIC presentation: oozing from catheter sites
 - Intravenous catheters
 - Urinary catheters
- Blood noted in epidural catheter may have been an early sign of DIC and subsequent placental abruption

References

- Erez O, AJOG, 2015.
- Callaghan WM, Obstet Gynecol, 2012.



Medical Gallery of Blausen Medical 2014.