A **partograph** is a graphical tool used to monitor and record the progress of labor. It provides a visual representation of key parameters such as the dilation of the cervix, the descent of the baby, contractions, maternal vital signs, and fetal heart rate. The partograph is used in obstetric care to help healthcare providers detect complications early and take necessary actions to ensure the safety of both the mother and baby.

Key Components of a Partograph:

1. **Cervical Dilation**:
    - This is plotted on the **x-axis** (horizontal axis), representing time in hours.
    - It shows the progress of cervical dilation from the onset of labor to full dilation (10 cm). The normal rate of cervical dilation is about 1 cm per hour in active labor.
2. **Fetal Descent**:
    - Plotted as the fetal head's descent into the birth canal. This is recorded on the **y-axis** (vertical axis) using station markers (e.g., -5 to +5 cm).
    - The descent of the fetus is crucial for ensuring that labor is progressing efficiently.
3. **Contractions**:
    - The frequency, strength, and duration of uterine contractions are recorded on the partograph.
    - This helps to determine if the labor is progressing effectively, and if there is inadequate uterine activity or excessive contractions.
4. **Fetal Heart Rate (FHR)**:
    - Monitoring the fetal heart rate is crucial to assess fetal well-being.
    - A normal heart rate is between 110 and 160 beats per minute.
    - The FHR is recorded regularly and compared to normal ranges.
5. **Maternal Vital Signs**:
    - Blood pressure, temperature, pulse, and respiratory rate are monitored and recorded.
    - Abnormal maternal vital signs could signal infection, preeclampsia, or other complications.
6. **Action Lines**:
    - These are pre-determined lines drawn on the partograph that represent normal labor progress.
    - There are **alert lines** (to indicate a slowing down or abnormal progression) and **action lines** (which indicate the need for intervention if labor is not progressing as expected).

How to Use the Partograph:

1. **Initial Assessment**:
    - When the laboring woman arrives, an initial assessment is done to determine the **cervical dilation** and fetal **station**.
    - These are plotted on the partograph, marking the starting point.
2. **Ongoing Monitoring**:

    - Throughout labor, the progress of cervical dilation and fetal descent is recorded.
    - Contractions are monitored, and fetal heart rate is checked regularly.
    - Maternal vital signs are recorded at intervals.
3. **Interpretation**:
    - If the cervical dilation crosses the alert line, it indicates that the labor is not progressing as expected. Further evaluation is needed to determine if interventions are required.
    - If the labor progresses quickly (beyond the expected rate), it may also require adjustments in care, such as monitoring for complications like uterine rupture.
    - When the labor crosses the action line, immediate intervention (such as augmentation of labor, use of forceps, or cesarean section) may be needed.

Importance of the Partograph:

- **Early Detection of Abnormalities**: By plotting the progress of labor, the partograph helps to identify slow progress, abnormal contractions, or fetal distress early.
- **Guidance for Decision-Making**: It helps healthcare providers decide when interventions (such as cesarean delivery or labor augmentation) are necessary.
- **Improved Outcomes**: The use of a partograph has been shown to improve maternal and fetal outcomes by reducing the rate of unnecessary cesarean sections and assisting in timely interventions.

Types of Partographs:

1. **Single Curve Partograph**: This shows only cervical dilation and the descent of the fetus.
2. **Modified Partograph**: It includes other parameters such as fetal heart rate, maternal vital signs, and contractions, offering a more comprehensive view of labor progress.

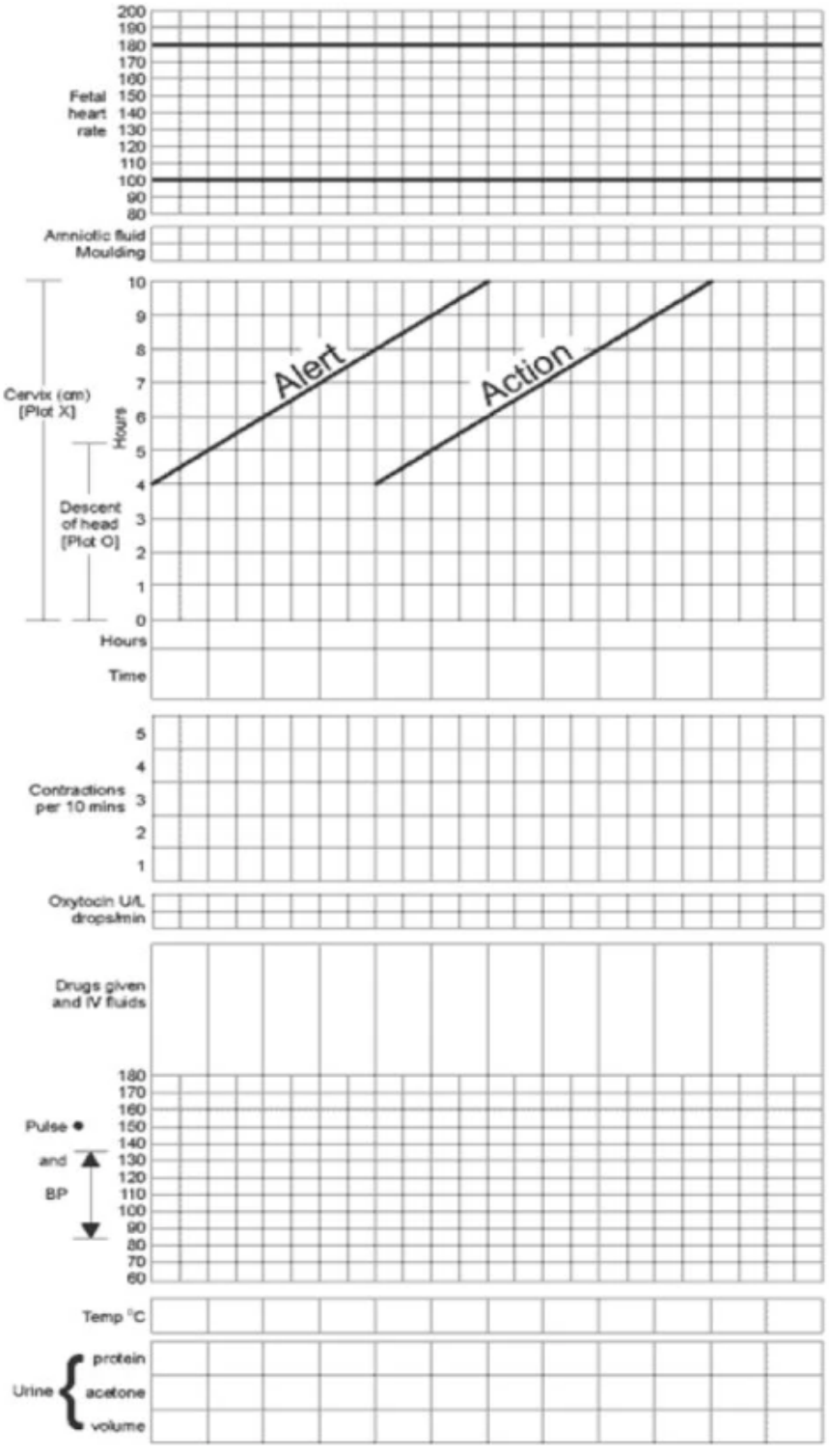
In summary, the partograph is a vital tool in obstetric care to monitor labor and ensure the safety of both mother and baby. It facilitates timely intervention, reduces the risk of complications, and improves the overall outcomes of childbirth.

The components:

- **Cervical dilation curve** (time vs. dilation)
- **Fetal descent** and station markings
- **Contraction patterns**
- **Maternal vital signs** (blood pressure, pulse, etc.)
- **Fetal heart rate**

Name Gravida Para Hospital number

Date of admission Time of admission Ruptured membranes hours



Name Gravida Para Hospital number

Date of admission Time of admission Ruptured membranes hours