

Guidelines for assessing maternal cardiovascular physiology during pregnancy and postpartum.

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Physiology - Heart and Circulatory Physiology Guidelines in Cardiovascular Research
10.1152/ajpheart.00060.2024 PMC11380980 38819382 Maternal mortality rates are at an all-time
high across the world and are set to increase in subsequent years. Cardiovascular disease is the
leading cause of death during pregnancy and postpartum, especially in the United States.
Therefore, understanding the physiological changes in the cardiovascular system during normal
pregnancy is necessary to understand disease-related pathology. Significant systemic and
cardiovascular physiological changes occur during pregnancy that are essential for supporting the
maternal-fetal dyad. The physiological impact of pregnancy on the cardiovascular system has been
examined in both experimental animal models and in humans. However, there is a continued need
in this field of study to provide increased rigor and reproducibility. Therefore, these guidelines aim to
provide information regarding best practices and recommendations to accurately and rigorously

measure cardiovascular physiology during normal and cardiovascular disease-complicated pregnancies in human and animal models.