Last few weeks of pregnancy

Oestrogen conc. ↑ dramatically

Stimulates prod of oxytocin receptors in smooth mus cle of uterus

Increases myometrial responsiveness to oxytocin

High levels of oestrogen at end of pregnancy allows contraction of uterus

Birth requires hormone relaxin

Produced by ovary or placenta (species dependent)

In response to the PGF2α

Functions:

Softens fibrocartilage uniting the pubic bones of pelvis Allows pelvic cavity to widen during childbirth

Softens cervix- allowing dilatation to occur

Hormones of Late Pregnancy and Birth:

Oxytocin

Oxytocin comes from both foetus and mother

Foetal pituitary gland

Releases small amounts of oxytocin before birth

Crosses placenta to sensitive myometrium

↑ myometrial tone by stimulating release of prostaglandins

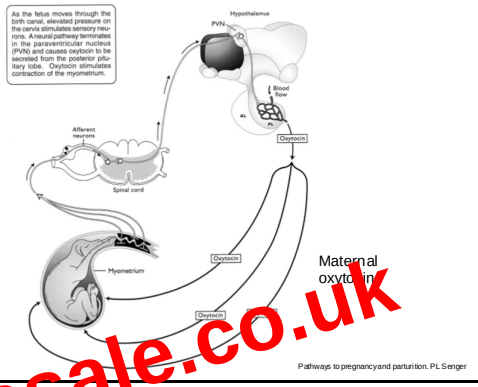
Together oxytocin and PGF2 α stimulate more frequent and powerful contractions

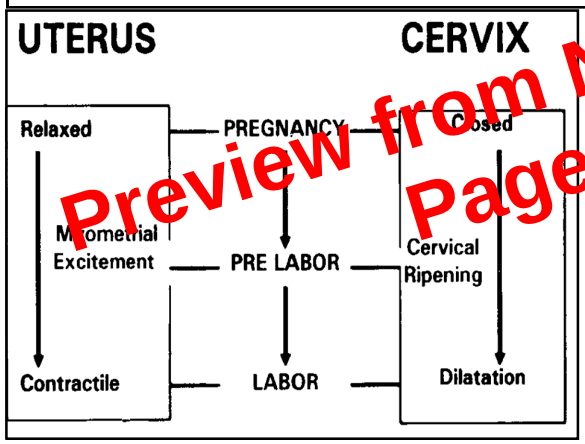
Maternal oxytocin

Released as a result of discomfort and stress?

Further augments contractions stimulated by foetal oxytocin and PG positive feedback

How pressure on the cervix → oxytocin release → myometrial contractions





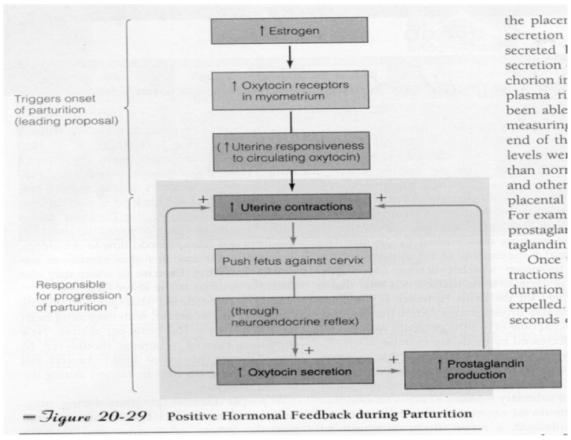


Figure 20-29 Positive Hormonal Feedback during Parturition

Stages of Labour: Animals

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
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