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Aspects of psychosocial stress during pregnancy

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Imbalance that a pregnant woman feels when she cannot cope with the demands is expressed both behaviorally and physiologically. Associations have been noted between antenatal psychosocial stress and domestic violence, substance abuse, depression symptoms, psychotic diagnosis, poor weight gain and having a chronic medical disorder. These factors may affect via indirect behavioral factors like nutrition, sleep, exercise, substance use, tobacco use and/or use of prenatal services and direct physiological pathways, while physiological response to psychosocial stress may include both neuroendocrine and immune responses. Levels of stress likely to change throughout the course of pregnancy and may result in higher rates of Low Birth Weight and preterm deliveries.

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