



LEOPOLD MANEUVER



The Leopold maneuver uses abdominal palpation to assess fetal presentation, position, engagement, and attitude in utero.

	Procedure	Goal	Findings
<p>Step 1</p>	Palpate the fundus of the uterus to determine what part of the fetus is in the upper part of uterus.	Determine fetal presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fetal head: firm, hard, round, moves independent of trunk Buttock: less well defined, soft, moves with trunk No discrete part: may indicate transverse lie
<p>Step 2</p>	Palpate the sides of the uterus to identify location of the fetal back.	Determine fetal position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fetal back: smooth, hard Fetal extremities: irregular, angular
<p>Step 3</p>	Grasp the lower part of the abdomen above the pubic symphysis to engage the fetal presenting part. Gently move from side to side.	Determine engagement of presenting part	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting part is engaged: little to no movement Presenting part is not engaged: part is easily moved, ballotable
<p>Step 4</p>	Facing the foot of the client, use both hands to assess position of fetal head.	Determine fetal attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fetal head is well flexed: Resistance from the brow is palpated opposite the fetal back. Fetal head is extended: Occiput is palpated on same side as fetal back.

When is it used?

Leopold maneuver is used to determine if the fetus is in an optimal position for labor. It is also used to identify the location of the fetal back, which is where fetal heart tones are best auscultated.

Factors that may affect findings:

- Maternal body habitus
- Polyhydramnios
- Full maternal bladder