

- (i) Weight gain
- (ii) Upper airway mucosal edema
- (iii) Respiratory changes with lower FRC and increased oxygen requirements leading to decreased respiratory reserve
- (iv) Breast enlargement
- (v) Cardiovascular-system changes
- (vi) Gastrointestinal anatomy and physiology

- Other risk factors for difficult intubation in pregnancy:
 - (i) Patients with preeclampsia have narrower upper airways than do normal pregnant women because of significant tissue edema and soft tissue deposition in the neck
 - (ii) Morbid obesity

changes
in airway in
pregnancy

airway
problems
in pregnancy
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02/10/07]

general

- Anatomic and physiologic changes in pregnancy place parturient patients at a greater risk for airway related complications.
- Early in pregnancy, increasing hormone levels have a major role in the anatomic and physiologic changes of pregnancy.
- As pregnancy progresses, the gravid uterus has a significant role in the alterations of respiratory, cardiovascular-system, and gastrointestinal functions.