

Acute Preterm Labor

Definition: cervical dilation ≥ 3 cm or
cervical length < 20 mm on transvaginal ultrasound

Delivery not imminent

Tocolysis (only if sure not aborting)

24-32wks Indomethacin 50-100 mg PO/PR

32-34wks Nifedipine 20-30 mg PO and

Terbutaline 2.5-5 mcg/min IV infusion

(incr 2.5-5 at a time to max 25 mcg/min)

Corticosteroids (if 23 0/7 to 36 6/7 weeks)

Betamethasone 12 mg IM *OR*

Dexamethasone 6 mg IM

Labs: CBC, type & screen; if possible abruption, coags,
type & cross, fibrinogen

Delivery imminent

Magnesium 4gm IV over 20 min IF
gestational age 24-32 weeks

Neuroprotective for fetus

Ampicillin 2 gm IV *OR*

Penicillin G, 5 million units IV
if GBS status unknown

If cervix dilated > 3 cm but delivery not
imminent, may consider tocolysis to
facilitate transfer to definitive OB care