

# LEOPOLD'S MANEUVERS

---

Maria Giroux, HBSc, MD

# Leopold's Maneuvers

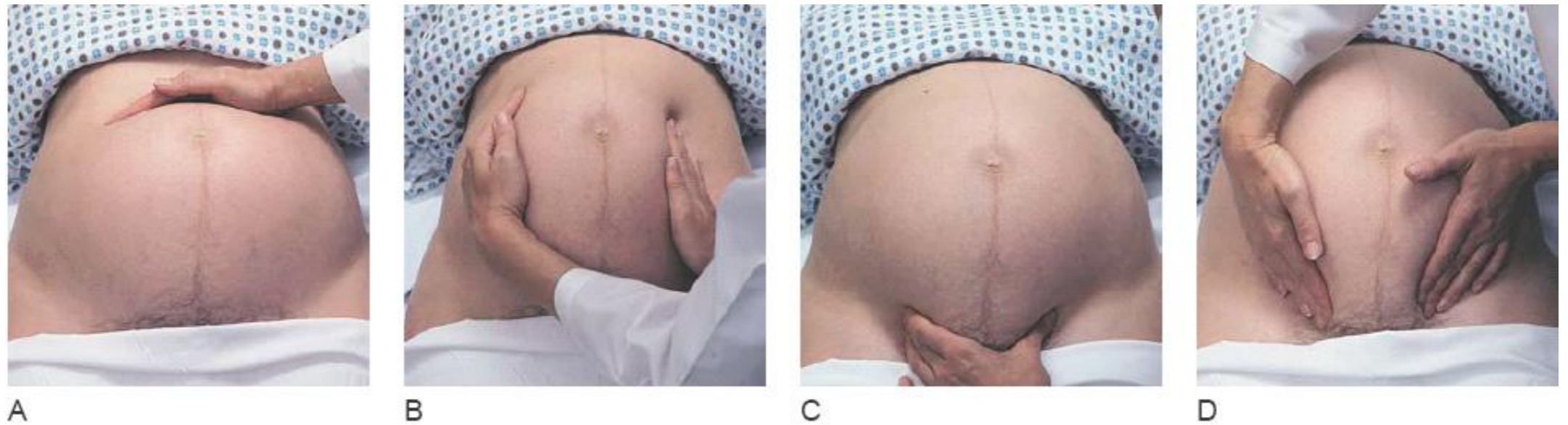
---

- 4 maneuvers described by Leopold in 1894
- Used to diagnose fetal presentation
  - Can be used in late pregnancy and during labour between contractions
  - Difficult if obese, polyhydramnios, or anterior placenta
- Can estimate fetal size
  - Poor correlation if obese

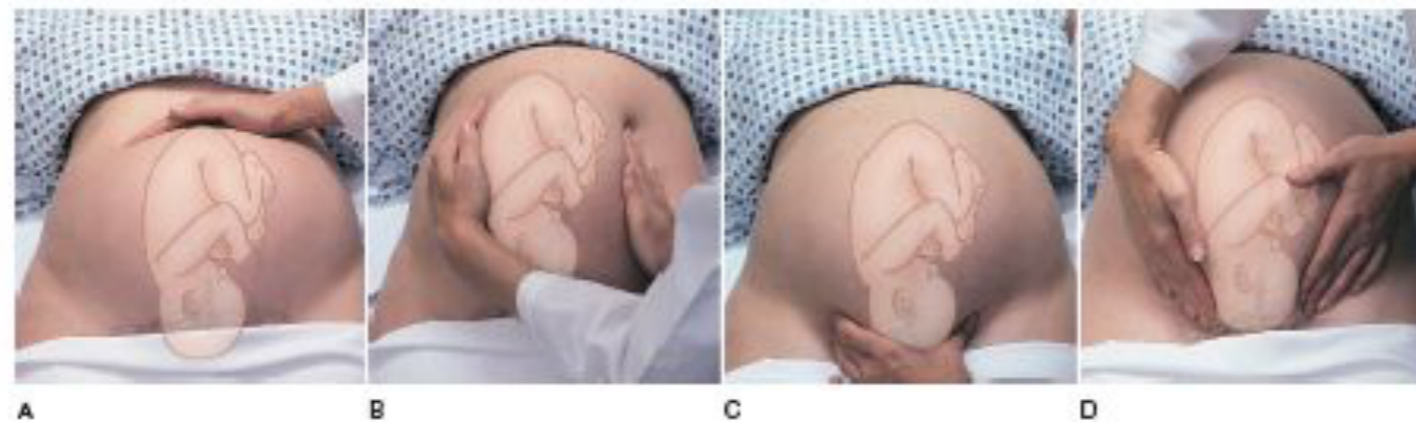
## Accuracy of Leopold's

- Sensitivity: 88%
- Specificity: 94%
- PPV (true +): 74%
- NPV (true -): 97%

# Leopold maneuvers



Leopold's Maneuvers: Determining Fetal Position in the Uterus [Digital image]. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://sciteachers.tumblr.com/post/146569410584/janellerose-leopolds-maneuvers-determining>



[Leopold's maneuvers]. (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://medicine.academic.ru/138709/Leopold\\_maneuvers](https://medicine.academic.ru/138709/Leopold_maneuvers)

# 1. Uterine Fundus

---

- Used to determine fetal lie and which fetal pole (cephalic or podalic) occupies fundus
- Palpate fundus
  - Head: round, more mobile
  - Breech: large, nodular mass



A

Leopold's Maneuvers: Determining Fetal Position in the Uterus [Digital image]. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://sciteachers.tumblr.com/post/146569410584/janellerose-leopolds-maneuvers-determining>



A

[Leopold's maneuvers]. (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://medicine.academic.ru/138709/Leopold\\_maneuvers](https://medicine.academic.ru/138709/Leopold_maneuvers)

# 2. Fetal Orientation

---

- Used to determine position of fetal back
- Place palms on either side of maternal abdomen, exert gentle deep pressure
  - Back: hard, resistant structure
    - Directed anteriorly, posteriorly, transversely
  - Fetal extremities: numerous small irregular mobile parts



Leopold's Maneuvers: Determining Fetal Position in the Uterus [Digital image]. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://sciteachers.tumblr.com/post/146569410584/janellerose-leopolds-maneuvers-determining>



**R**  
[Leopold's maneuvers]. (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://medicine.academic.ru/138709/Leopold\\_maneuvers](https://medicine.academic.ru/138709/Leopold_maneuvers)

# 3. Fetal Presentation

---

- Used to confirm fetal presentation (cephalic vs breech)
- The thumb and fingers of 1 hand grasp the lower portion of maternal abdomen above pubic symphysis
  - Not engaged- movable mass is felt



Leopold's Maneuvers: Determining Fetal Position in the Uterus [Digital image]. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://sciteachers.tumblr.com/post/146569410584/janellerose-leopolds-maneuvers-determining>



[Leopold's maneuvers]. (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://medicine.academic.ru/138709/Leopold\\_maneuvers](https://medicine.academic.ru/138709/Leopold_maneuvers)

# 4. Degree of Descent

---

- Used to determine the degree of descent
- Face pt's feet, position fingertips of both hands on either side of the presenting part → exert inwards pressure, slide caudad along the axis of pelvic inlet
  - When the head has descended, can feel anterior shoulder or the space created by the neck from the head



Leopold's Maneuvers: Determining Fetal Position in the Uterus [Digital image]. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://sciteachers.tumblr.com/post/146569410584/janellerose-leopolds-maneuvers-determining>



[Leopold's maneuvers]. (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://medicine.academic.ru/138709/Leopold\\_maneuvers](https://medicine.academic.ru/138709/Leopold_maneuvers)

# References

---

Cunningham, F., Leveno, K., Bloom, S., Spong, C., Dashe, J., Hoffman, B., & Casey, B. (2018). *William's obstetrics* (25th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill Education.