

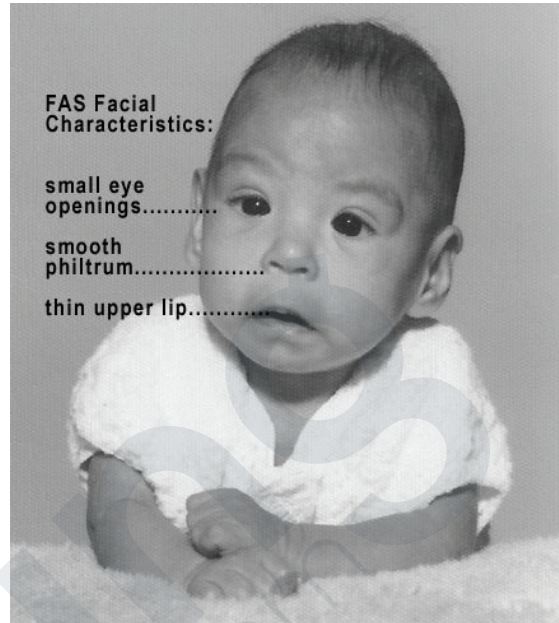
# FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME PATHOCHART

## PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Infants exposed to alcohol, consumed by the mother during pregnancy, may develop Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) that can cause problems with growth and development and can lead to brain damage. The severity of the disorder in the infant can vary and normally includes a mix of physical, behavioral, and mental disorders, as well as learning disabilities. The effects of FAS may not be fully recognized at birth, but may continue to develop over time, even after entering school and into adulthood. Note: There is NO confirmed safe amount of alcohol to be consumed during pregnancy.

## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Distinct facial features:
  - Small eyes
  - Thin upper lip
  - Short nose
- Slow physical growth
- Small head circumference
- Joint/bone deformities
- Hyperactivity
- Learning difficulty
- Poor memory or focus



By Teresa Kellerman - <http://www.come-over.to/FAS/fasbabyface.jpg>, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4847497>

## DIAGNOSTICS

- Clinical findings
  - Abnormal facial features
  - Growth abnormalities
  - CNS problems
  - Mother's alcohol use during pregnancy

## NURSING PRIORITIES

- Educate pregnant mothers
- Monitor growth and development
- Monitor neurological status

## THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Minimize external stimuli
- Educate patient and family

## MEDICATION THERAPY

- Antidepressant
- Anti-anxiety
- Neuroleptics
- Stimulants