



1. Pregnancy compromises the integrity of the lower esophageal sphincter (LES), alters the anatomic relationship of the esophagus to the diaphragm and stomach, and raises intragastric pressure
  - (a) Stomach is displaced upward toward the left side of the diaphragm
  - (b) Decreased LES tone is likely due to smooth muscle relaxation properties of progesterone
  - (c) Changes return to pre-pregnancy levels by 48 h post-partum
2. High rate of GERD during pregnancy. Risk factors include gestational age, GERD prior to pregnancy, and multiparity
  - (a) Maternal age has an inverse correlation
3. Gastric acid pH and volume is unchanged in pregnancy
4. Rate of gastric emptying is unchanged during pregnancy, but significantly prolonged during labor
  - (a) Esophageal peristalsis and intestinal transit are slowed