

Unit 8 Physiotherapy and Women's Health

Task 1: Vocabulary:

WORDSEARCH PUZZLES

MEDICAL

E	L	A	U	T	E	R	U	S	K	R	G	G	J
S	Q	E	R	O	O	O	L	L	I	V	E	R	O
T	T	N	Y	S	M	V	U	U	D	N	A	L	A
E	S	I	R	T	I	U	A	P	N	V	E	I	N
T	R	T	E	O	S	M	A	R	E	G	P	S	N
H	O	S	G	M	E	I	M	B	Y	H	T	P	A
O	T	E	R	A	N	P	U	L	S	E	O	L	P
S	C	T	U	C	O	F	S	O	E	X	N	E	R
C	O	N	S	H	M	T	C	O	U	A	S	E	O
O	D	I	C	B	R	N	L	D	I	R	I	N	S
P	L	F	D	R	O	H	E	A	R	T	L	H	T
E	L	O	R	A	H	U	I	N	J	E	C	T	A
U	N	J	U	I	T	O	L	C	X	R	A	Y	T
P	R	E	G	N	A	N	T	U	B	Y	O	N	E

artery; blood; brain; clot; doctor; drug; flu; heart; hormone; inject; intestine;
kidney; liver; lung; muscle; ovary; ovum; pain; pregnant; prostate; pulse;
spleen; stethoscope, stomach; surgery; tonsil; uterus; vein; x-ray;

(from: <http://www.world-english.org/wordsearchmedical.htm>)

Task 2:

Look at the groups of words and think of the way they are related:

artery – blood – vein – lung

brain – x-ray – doctor – surgery

ovary – ovum – pregnant – uterus

Look at the list in Task 1 above and think of other combinations and associations.

Task 3 Before you read:

Why do pregnant women experience discomfort?

What are their most frequent problems?

Do you know any methods suitable for pregnant women?

Scan the text and find the following:

- powerful effect _____ (par. 1)
- process of giving birth _____ (par. 1)
- improved _____ (par. 2)
- to carry out a programme _____ (par. 2)
- a slight stinging or uncomfortable feeling _____ (par. 2)
- complete assessment _____ (par. 3)
- to include sth. _____ (par. 3)
- period after childbirth _____ (par. 4)
- a surgical procedure performed to help the woman deliver the baby _____

Find antonyms in the text:

increase _____ (par. 1)

slow down _____ (par. 1)

balance _____ (par. 2)

weakness _____ (par. 2)

Check the words in bold – can you guess their meaning?

Physiotherapy, pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum

1 Pregnancy is a time that can have a great impact on the ability of a woman to function on a daily basis. Many physical and hormonal changes are responsible for making women feel at times quite uncomfortable during the pregnancy process. However, women do not have to accept that these feelings of **discomfort** are unmanageable. Physicians recognise that physical therapy can improve women's health during pregnancy by reducing discomfort, preparing the body for delivery and also to accelerate the recovery process after the birth of the baby.

2 Physical therapy is able to help the body to cope with musculature, circulatory, mobility, respiratory and circulatory **issues**. The entire nervous system function can be greatly enhanced by using certain physiotherapy techniques to improve its function. It is estimated that up to 25% of women will experience some form or **temporary disablement** because of the changes in the body during pregnancy and other women will experience general discomfort **to varying degrees**. By implementing a regular physiotherapy program as part of your pregnancy care regime you may be able to treat problems associated with lower back pain, neck and head pain, pain in the hamstrings due to the feet becoming flatter, nerve compression symptoms such as tingling sensations in the arms, and bladder control problems. A physiotherapy program can be **tailored** specifically for each woman's individual needs.

3 A thorough evaluation is necessary before starting an effective program, in order to determine the best exercises that will be **well suited to** the woman. These exercises are intended to decrease joint pain, help to correct muscle imbalances and build strength, and to increase the range of the body's overall motion and functionality. It is recommended that women attend between four to six instructional sessions in order to learn how to use and incorporate the techniques into their daily exercise or care regime. The session should focus on specific movements and exercises to reduce and manage pain effectively and to assist in development of healthy **postural alignment** and balance of the body. Particular techniques are designed to enhance flexibility in the soft tissues and joints.

4 There are a variety of techniques that can be used for mental and physical relaxation. Relaxation exercises are just as important as those that help to increase strength and flexibility. Therapists can also fit the woman with **braces** and **orthotics** that will help to provide support for the lower back if necessary. Positions for sleeping may be advised, if normal sleeping routines have been **disturbed**. This is also a common problem for pregnant women. After the birth of the baby, rehabilitation can be accelerated by incorporating postpartum physiotherapy techniques into the regular exercise program. The use of physiotherapy, combined with the **professional guidance** and advice of the practitioner can definitely help to make pregnancy and recovery more enjoyable. The benefits gained through the use of physiotherapy will be extended to the baby, if a mother is feeling more happy and comfortable.

<http://www.eumom.ie/Pregnancy/Physio-for-Pregnant-Women.aspx>

Below is a summary of some changes that may occur during pregnancy:

First Trimester: Low back pain

Second Trimester: Diastasis Recti, low back pain

Third Trimester: Low back pain, Frequent urination, Back pain, Leg edema, Fatigue, Shortness of breath, Constipation

Post-Partum Care:

After childbirth, women should have a follow up with a physical therapist in order to put back on a proper exercise and stretching program. Some women notice changes after childbirth that might have not been present during pregnancy. Again, these discomforts can be treated.

- Back pain
- Diastasis recti
- Scarring
- C-Section, episiotomy, or perineal tear
- Pelvic floor weakness
- Prolapse
- Urinary or faecal incontinence
- Pelvic pain

<http://www.beyondbasicsphysicaltherapy.com/childbearing.shtml>

Task 4 After reading – Answer the questions:

How can a physiotherapist help a woman prepare for childbirth?

Which muscles should be trained?

What should be done after childbirth?

Task 5 Discuss: Recommended postnatal exercise:

Ligaments and joints will be loose for at least three months following the birth, so high impact exercises or sports that require rapid direction changes should be avoided. Vigorous stretching should be avoided too.

In the light of the above advice, what types of exercise would you recommend?

See also:

Mojzis method at <http://www.mojzis-methods.com/>

Myofascial release at http://www.myofascialrelease.com/fascia_message/public/whatis_myofascial_release.asp

Task 7 Listening

Top tips for a healthy back in pregnancy (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcHPEc5FxB8> 3.52-6.10)

Check the vocabulary used by the therapist:

To stiffen

To tilt forward

To counterbalance

Tailbone

To tuck

Growing bump

Likely to fall

Listen and note down the main tips for a healthy back in pregnancy.

Describe the changes in the lower back during pregnancy.

Task 8 IF AND THE CONDITIONAL

The 'zero' conditional, where the tense in **both parts** of the sentence is the **simple present**:

If + simple present

If you heat ice

If it rains

simple present

it melts.

you get wet.

In these sentences, the time is **now or always** and the situation is **real and possible**. They are often used to refer to general truths.

The Type 1 conditional, where the tense in the 'if' clause is the **simple present**, and the tense in the main clause is the **simple future**

If + simple present

If it rains

If you don't hurry

Simple future

you will get wet

we will miss the train.

In these sentences, the time is the **present or future** and the situation is **real**. They refer to a **possible condition** and its **probable result**.

Study these examples:

I'll phone you when I get home.

We'll go out when it stops raining.

The time in the sentence is future, but we use a present tense (**I get, it stops**) in the **when** part of the sentence. We do not use **will** in the **when** part.

The same thing happens after **while / before / after / as soon as / until** or **till**:

*I'm going to read a lot **while I'm** on holiday.*

*I'll go back home on Sunday. **Before I go**, I'd like to visit the museum.*

*Wait here **until I come** back.*

You can also use the present perfect (**have done**) after **when / after / until / as soon as**:

*Can I borrow that book **when you've finished** with it?*

*Don't say anything **while Ian is here**. Wait **until he's gone**.*

If you use the present perfect, one thing must be complete before the other (so the two things do not happen together).

***When I've phoned** Kate, we can have dinner.*

(= First I'll phone Kate and after that we can have dinner).

Compare when and if:

We use *when* for things which are sure to happen:

*I'm going shopping later. **When I go shopping**, I'll buy some food.*

We use *if* for things that will possibly happen:

***If it's raining this evening**, we won't go out.*

*I **might go shopping later**. (it's possible) **If I go shopping**, I'll buy some food.*

The Type 2 conditional, where the tense in the 'if' clause is the **simple past**, and the tense in the main clause is the **present conditional**:

If + simple past

If it rained

If you went to bed earlier

Present conditional

you would get wet

you wouldn't be so tired.

In these sentences, the time is **now or any time**, and the situation is **unreal**. They are **not** based on **fact**, and they refer to an **unlikely or hypothetical condition** and its **probable result**.

In the other part of the sentence (not the if-part) we use **would/ wouldn't**.

Could and **might** are also possible:

***If you took more exercise**, you **might feel** better.*

***It stopped raining**, we **could go** out.*

Adapted from: MURPHY, Raymond. *English grammar in use : a self-study reference and practice book for intermediate students of English : with answers*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. x, 379 s. ISBN 0-521-53762-2.