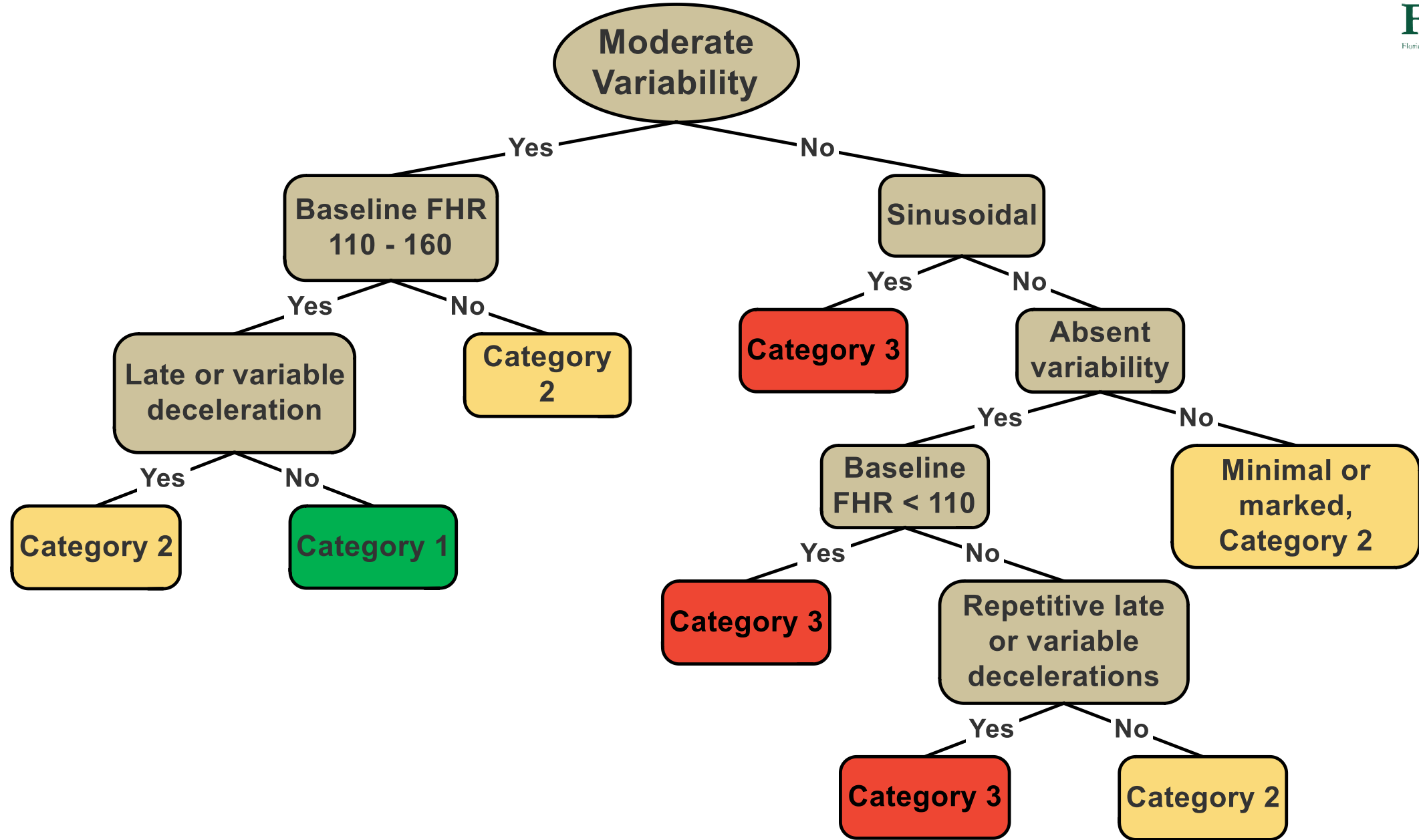


Interpreting the Fetal Cardiotocograph Using Current NICHD Terminology



At the time of the tracing:

Category 1 (normal) fetal heart rate tracings support normal fetal acid base balance. Early decelerations and/or accelerations may or may not be present

Category 2 (indeterminate) tracings include fetal tachycardia, fetal bradycardia, and marked (> 25 bpm) or minimal variability (< 6 bpm). They are not diagnostic of a significant fetal acid base aberration. Although they may normalize, they may progress to category 3 and require continued close observation. The presence of moderate variability and accelerations (stimulated or spontaneous) supports normal acid base balance

Category 3 (abnormal) tracings suggest at-risk fetal acidemia and require immediate intervention

Repetitive decelerations occur with more than 50 percent of uterine contractions

Uterine activity:

Tachysystole: More than 5 contractions in 10 minutes (averaged over a 30 minute window) can impair normal oxygen delivery to the fetus.

Adapted from Macones, Am J Obstet Gynecol 2008;112:660-6