

Marcia Cross STRUGGLING TO KEEP HER TWINS



DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES" star Marcia Cross is facing a serious pregnancy complication she fears could jeopardize the health of her unborn twins.

A recent ultrasound revealed the 44-year-old actress, who is due in April, is suffering from placenta previa, say pals. The condition is caused by all or part of the placenta covering the opening to the cervix.

And one insider maintains that a panicked Marcia recently rushed off the "DH" set and headed straight to her doctor's office when she started suffering from cramps and bleeding.

"Marcia's doctor checked the fetuses' heartbeats, and found them to be perfectly healthy," a source close

to the actress told The ENQUIRER. "Marcia was relieved, but her doctor warned her that she had better slow down and take things easy."

The doctor also performed an ultrasound on the fetuses and discovered the placenta previa, says the source. Placenta previa is a potentially life-threatening condition that causes the placenta to precede the baby during birth, and severe hemorrhaging can occur during labor.

"The problem might resolve itself as the fetuses grow and pull the placenta away from the danger area - but if it doesn't work itself out, it could endanger both her and the twins," added the source.

Dr. Duncan Turner, an obstetri-

cian/gynecologist practicing in Santa Barbara, Calif. - who has not treated Marcia - told The ENQUIRER that placenta previa is a condition that should be taken extremely seriously.

"When the delivery date approaches, patients with placenta previa are almost always scheduled for a Caesarean section," he said.

Marcia was terrified about her condition at first, says the source, but her doctors have since been able to allay her fears.

"Marcia has a great support team in husband Tom Mahoney, her friends from 'Desperate Housewives' and her family," said the source. "And she's determined to give birth to healthy babies."

by ROBIN MIZRAHI