

# INDUCTION OF LABOUR

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*Induction of Labour is the process of artificial stimulation of the uterus to start labour.*

## INDICATIONS

- Gestational diabetes
- Post dates
- Premature rupture of membranes
- IUGR
- Suspicion of macrosomia
- High blood pressure

## ARTIFICIAL RUPTURE OF MEMBRANES

Involves placing a finger in the cervix and in using an amnihook make a small hole in the membranes.

- Favourable cervical bishop score
- Cephalic presentation
- When the woman prefers a more natural intervention

*This procedure may make contractions more intense and carries a risk of infection.*

## PROSTAGLANDINS

The prostaglandin pessary is a synthetic prostaglandin which stimulates the cervix to ripen, soften and dilate. Used when the cervix is unfavourable, Bishop score <6.

- CTG for 30 min prior and 30 min following insertion, to monitor fetal wellbeing and uterine activity
- Assess after 4 hours

*Complications include fetal distress, sensation of heat in the vagina, tachycardia, tachypnea, change in blood pressure, pyrexia, intestinal disorders*

## CERVICAL RIPENING BALLOON

The cervical ripening balloon works by gradually ripening and dilating the cervix, through mechanical action on the internal and external OS.

- Uterine balloon is placed through the cervix and inflated with sterile water, obstructing the internal OS.
- Vaginal balloon is inflated with sterile water, obstructing the external OS.

*When the balloon falls out, the woman can be transferred to labour ward and ARM should be offered. If the balloon is still in situ following 24 hours, it should be removed and a further plan should be discussed with the senior obstetrician.*

## OXYTOCIN

Synthetic oxytocin infusion is used intravenously to induce labour after ARM.

- Administered through an infusion pump using a Y-connector.
- 5IU of oxytocin is added to 500ml of a physiological electrolyte solution
- Continuous CTG to monitor fetal wellbeing and uterine activity

May overstimulate uterus to contract in which case the drip rate will be reduced and terbutaline can be given to reduce uterine activity.