

Catawba Valley Medical Center
Hickory, North Carolina

Consent for Induction of Labor with Prostaglandin Products

Indication:

Your physician/midwife has determined the need to induce labor at this point in your pregnancy. One currently accepted theory for what may cause the start of labor is the natural release of prostaglandins in the mother’s body. In the event that this does not happen naturally, it is sometimes necessary to start labor by other means. Reasons for the medical “induction” of labor may be:

- going too far past due date
- mother’s medical condition such as diabetes or high blood pressure
- baby’s medical condition

Procedure:

The procedure used to medically start labor uses a Prostaglandin product, which is inserted into or near the opening of the uterus called the cervix. Prostaglandin can be in the form of a gel or a small pill and is used to “ripen” the cervix and “thin it out”. Treatment includes admission to the hospital, possible use of IV fluids, external fetal monitoring, and the insertion of the medication. This may be followed by artificial rupture of membranes (also called “breaking the water”). For some women, using a Prostaglandin product will be enough to start labor and others may need additional treatment, which may include administration of the IV medication called Pitocin to help start and keep the patient in labor.

Risks:

Sometimes the uterus could contract too strongly and too often which may “stress” the baby and/or the uterus. When this occurs, a drug called Terbutaline can be given to decrease or stop the contractions. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and muscle aches may occur and can be relieved with medications as needed. {**Seldom seen, but can occur, are postpartum hemorrhage, uterine rupture with the need for surgical repair or hysterectomy, amniotic fluid emboli, retained placenta, shock, and fetal bradycardia (baby’s heart rate drops. Maternal or fetal death can occur in rare occasions.)

In the event the induction process fails or a complication occurs; the physician/midwife may discuss an alternative method for your delivery when the benefits for the baby outweigh the risks of continuing the labor process.

Benefits:

Initially Prostaglandin products are used to “soften the cervix” or to start the labor process. It is minimally invasive, often allowing the patient to eat and be up out of the bed after the procedure.

Consent:

I have read the above information and I agree to the use of a Prostaglandin product to induce my labor.

Patient _____ Date _____ Time _____
(Spouse or Legal Guardian)

Witness _____ Date _____ Time _____

Date _____ Time _____ Physician/Certified Nurse Midwife _____