



Induction of Labor

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The International Cesarean Awareness Network strongly advises women and health care practitioners to avoid induction of labor unless a true medical indication exists. Induction of labor frequently leads to further intervention in birth including the need for fetal monitoring, epidural anesthesia, instrumental delivery and cesarean section. Each of these interventions increases risks to babies and mothers.

First time mothers are especially vulnerable: Induction itself doubles a first-time mother's risk of having a cesarean section.^{1,2}

A cesarean puts a woman's entire reproductive life, including subsequent pregnancies, at higher risk.

For all women, induction of labor increases the use of forceps and vacuum extraction as well as rates of shoulder dystocia.^{2,3}

Women with a prior cesarean who are induced have a 33-75% risk of having another cesarean.^{4,5}

Induction of labor has been shown to increase the risk of uterine rupture for women with a prior cesarean scar.⁶⁻⁹



Babies whose births are induced more often experience resuscitation, admission to the intensive care unit, and phototherapy to treat jaundice, which generally require separation from the mother. ¹⁰

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