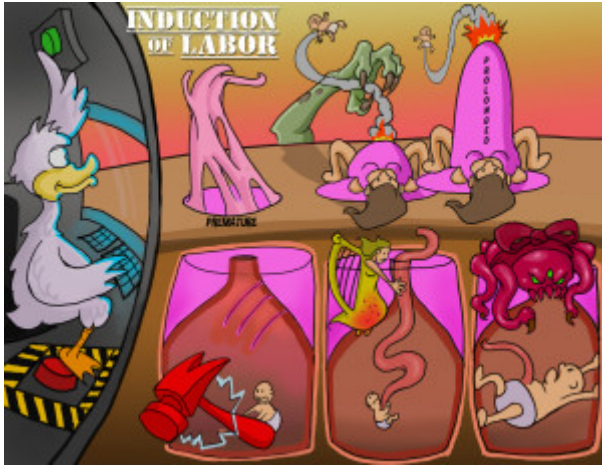


## Induction of Labor

Induction of labor is the stimulation of contractions using an external means, such as medications, surgery, and other mechanical methods. Labor is induced for multiple reasons; often for prolonged gestation, and otherwise for reasons that involve danger to the mother or fetus if the pregnancy is further sustained. As with other medical procedures, the benefits of inducing labor must outweigh the risks of continuing without intervention.



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### Indications

#### Premature Rupture of Membranes

##### [Premature Ruptured Membranes](#)

If the amniotic sac membranes have ruptured and are verified using Nitrazine paper, fetal lung maturity is assessed. If the fetus is determined to be mature for delivery, labor is induced.

#### Danger to Fetus or Mother

##### [Dangerous-claws threatening Fetus and Mother](#)

Most pregnancies are induced if the danger to the fetus or mother is significant if continued. Possible indications include hypertensive emergencies such as preeclampsia and eclampsia, as well as other maternal medical problems including gestational diabetes and chorioamnionitis. Traumatic events also may be an indication for an induction.

#### Prolonged Gestation

##### [Prolonged Pregnant-woman](#)

Gestations that are prolonged are often induced for delivery on an elective basis. Elective induction of labor increases the risk of future deliveries to be cesarean.

### Contraindications

#### Placenta Abnormalities

##### [Abnormal Placenta-present](#)

Abnormalities in placental development such as placenta previa and abruptio placenta are delivered via cesarean and never induced for delivery as the potential for hemorrhage is high.

### **Transverse Fetal Position**

#### [Tranverse Fetal Position](#)

Improper positioning of the infant into a transverse lie indicates that the shoulder would be the first presenting part during labor. Cesarean is indicated in all cases when found during delivery.

### **Prolapsed Umbilical Cord**

#### [Prolapsed Umbilical Cord](#)

Prolapse of the umbilical cord after the rupture of membranes is an indication of cesarean delivery as compression of the umbilical cord during delivery would cause excess fetal stress and possibly death.

### **Active Genital Herpes Infection**

#### [Herpes-harp with Active Infection](#)

Genital herpes infections that are active are an indication for cesarean delivery as it can be passed to the infant during passage through the birth canal. Herpes virus is a TORCH infection and may cause a systemic viral infection leading to brain damage.

### **Uterine Muscle Incision**

#### [Uterus with Incision](#)

Previous incisions into the uterine muscle causes localized weakness and scarring after healing. Since scars are weaker areas of tissue uterine contractions may cause rupture. Patients who deliver via cesarean delivery must have all subsequent deliveries the same.

### **Hemorrhage**

#### [Hemorrhage-hammer](#)

Any hemorrhage or vaginal bleeding that has an unknown cause indicates cesarean delivery, as it could indicate placenta previa, abruptio placenta, or other vaginal trauma.