Form 5: Tallahassee Consent (Permission to use is granted)

Tallahassee Memorial
Women's Pavilion
Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare

YOUR LABOR INDUCTION

Labor induction is usually done with a medication called Oxytocin or Pitocin®. With your practitioners order, our staff will start the medication at a standard dose and increase it over time to achieve labor progress. While you are getting the medication, we will closely monitor the baby's heart rate and your contractions. The length of labor depends on how dilated or "ripe" your cervix is at the start of the induction. In general the more dilated you are, the quicker your labor. Also, if this is not your first birth, labor may be faster for you.

If your cervix is already fairly dilated, your practitioner may start your induction by breaking the bag of water. If your cervix is closed and not shortening, we may schedule cervical ripening the day before your induction. This procedure will soften and begin to dilate your cervix. Ripening will make the Oxytocin more effective when it is begun. Sometimes, the ripening process will trigger the onset of your labor.

WHY ARE LABOR INDUCTIONS PERFORMED?

Labor inductions are performed for many reasons. Clearly, some reasons are more urgent than others. Here are just a few examples:

- A woman is well past her due date
- A woman is experiencing medical problems that place her or her baby at risk, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, rupture of the bag of water, etc.
- The baby or babies may be small or the amniotic fluid too low
- Though less common elective labor induction may be done for convenience or discomfort of the mother after 39 weeks

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL RISKS AND BENEFITS OF LABOR INDUCTION?

It is always important to consider the potential benefits and risks of any procedure. The risks include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Labor inductions may carry a greater risk of cesarean birth delivery than do labors that start on their own, especially with an "unripe" cervix..
- Induction usually results in longer labors and may lead to a higher chance of a vacuum or forceps delivery.
- All medications have possible side effects or unintended adverse reactions. For example, it is possible to cause contractions that are too frequent and may affect the baby's heart rate. This is why careful monitoring of your baby's heart rate is necessary during labor induction.

If you are considering an elective induction, the risks may outweigh the possible benefits especially, if this is a first time labor.

CONSENT FOR INDUCTION OF LABOR

Indication for Induction: _____

_____

I have read the above information and I have had the chance to ask my practitioner questions. All of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I wish to proceed with the induction.

_____ _____
Patient Signature Date

_____ _____
Witness Signature Date

PATIENT IDENTIFICATION

Department Approval 08/07/07