

A study on evaluating the efficacy of sweeping the membranes in stimulating the onset of labour

This study was done in order to determine whether sweeping of the membranes in pregnancies of longer than 40 weeks gestation results in an accelerated onset of labour and a reduction in the incidence of induction of labour.(i.e Whether sweeping the membranes leads to spontaneous labour)

It was designed as a prospective randomised controlled study and 130 antenatal women from de Zoysa maternity hospital were taken as the subjects. A Bishop score assessment of the cervix alone or combined with a membrane seep was done, on a randomised basis.

Subsequent duration of pregnancy to the onset of spontaneous labour and the incidence of induction fo laboaur for post-maturity were the outcome measures. The fitted Linear logistic model showed that sweep treatment reduces the proportion of induction of labour. Important prognostic factors found were gestational age, parity and analgesic given or not.

A Cox proportional hazard model was fitted to determine whether the treatment shortens the time to spontaneous labour. Results showed that sweeping of the membranes significantly reduces the subsequent duration of pregnancy. Important prognostic factors here were gestational age, parity and Bishp score.

A long - Linear model was fitted to find out the complications of the treatment but no harmful side effects to the procedure were noted.