



Informed Consent for Obstetrical Management and Care During Pregnancy, Labor and Birth

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Pregnancy, labor and birth are ordinarily normal physiological events and can be expected to provide a healthy outcome for mother and baby in the majority of cases. However, there are complications that are risks of the natural circumstances of pregnancy, labor and birth, such as toxemia, blood clots, hemorrhage, or infection, which can be serious and could endanger the life or health of the mother or baby. There are also risks associated with treatment of these conditions. These risks include the possibility of adverse side effects to drugs, allergic reactions and, if the administration of blood and/or blood products is required, the potential risk of transfusion reaction and/or transmission of infectious disease. I also realize that the additional risks enumerated below can be associated with the procedure(s) proposed for my obstetrical care.

CARE DURING LABOR AND VAGINAL BIRTH

The risks described may occur at birth or during the postpartum period.

RISKS TO MOTHER DURING THE NATURAL COURSE OF BIRTH:

- 1) Small tears of the vagina or the cervix may require the use of stitches.
- 2) If an episiotomy (incision into the floor of the pelvis) is performed to minimize the risk of tears, post-partum discomfort occurs for a few days. Also, it is possible that the episiotomy may become infected and require treatment with antibiotics or surgical drainage.
- 3) Tears into the bladder or rectum may result in difficulty with urination or bowel movements, and require treatment.
- 4) Dehydration may require intravenous fluid administration.
- 5) The possibility of infection of the uterus exists and may require treatment.
- 6) Retained fragments of the placenta can occur and require treatment.
- 7) Excessive blood loss may necessitate medication, transfusion or in rare circumstances, emergency hysterectomy.
- 8) Serious tears or injury to the birth canal may require treatment. This risk is associated with spontaneous deliveries as well as those in which forceps or a vacuum is used to assist birth.
- 9) Formation of one or more blood clots in the veins of the leg or pelvis may require treatment. It is possible for the clot(s) to travel to other organs (such as the lung or brain) and endanger the life or health of the mother.
- 10) VBAC - In addition to the above risks, a Vaginal Birth After Cesarean may result in possible trauma to the uterus, bladder, bowel or may be unsuccessful, necessitating a repeat cesarean birth. There is also a small risk (0.2% to 1.5%) of uterine scar rupture during labor.
- 11) Later risks of vaginal birth include: pelvic organ prolapse, urinary or fecal incontinence, and sexual dysfunction.

RISKS TO BABY DURING THE NATURAL COURSE OF PREGNANCY AND BIRTH:

- 1) Prematurity, birth defects, neurological problems, and infection to the baby are risks of the natural circumstances of pregnancy and birth. The natural forces of labor and birth are sometimes sufficient to cause temporary changes in the shape of the baby's head (this is commonly referred to as molding or caput), and possible trauma to skin, bony structures and underlying internal organs.
- 2) Fetal monitoring or other means of fetal assessment may not identify all fetal difficulties.
- 3) If internal fetal monitoring by means of a small electrode attached to the fetal scalp is used, there is the possibility of a reddened area at the electrode site. There is also the possibility of infection at the electrode site or of the scalp, which can be treated.
- 4) If fetal blood sampling is used, there is the possibility of bleeding at the scalp site, which usually responds to pressure. There is also a possibility of infection of the scalp.
- 5) If forceps or a vacuum is used to assist birth, there is the possibility of injury to the skin, bone or underlying internal structures of the baby. This risk is associated with spontaneous deliveries as well as those in which forceps or a vacuum is used.
- 6) If the baby is breast fed, the milk will contain small amounts of medications the mother has received.



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CESAREAN BIRTH

RISKS TO MOTHER:

- 1) Infection
- 2) Excessive blood loss which may necessitate medication, transfusion, or in rare circumstances, emergency hysterectomy.
- 3) Injury to internal organs such as bladder or bowel.

RISKS TO BABY:

- 1) There is the possibility of injury to the baby during the uterine incision or during birth.
- 2) The baby may experience difficulty with respiratory function and require special care to help clear secretions and fluids from its lungs.
- 3) If the baby is breast fed, the milk will contain small amounts of medications the mother receives

PATIENT AFFIRMATION

Dr Soheil Hanjani has explained to me the common procedures related to the management of pregnancy and birth which may include: assistance at vaginal birth, episiotomy, forceps or vacuum used to assist birth, cesarean section, use of drugs to stop premature labor or induce labor, and fetal assessment including auscultation (listening to the fetal heart), use of electronic fetal monitoring (external and/or internal), and fetal blood sampling.

I also understand that my test results (including HIV test results) will be made available to the hospital and Labor room for my care.

The following additional procedures and activities were explained: _____

By signing this consent form, I am indicating that I understand the contents of this document. I acknowledge that this information has been discussed with my doctor and my questions have been answered. My signature below acknowledges that I voluntarily give my consent to perform the procedures described above.

Signature of Patient

Date

SOHEIL HANJANI MD

Date

Signature of Interpreter, if applicable