



Barnmorskemottagningar

Patientinformation: Överburenhet översatt till engelska

Datum: 2025-02-06

Information about prolonged pregnancy

A full-term pregnancy is 37–42 full weeks long. We now know that there are some increased risks for the foetus if you exceed that limit because the function of the placenta and the supply of nutrients to the foetus begins gradually to decline beyond that point. The risk of caesarean section or vacuum extraction is not higher with induction than with spontaneous delivery if the pregnancy is prolonged. Today induction is therefore recommended at Week 42+0.

One drawback of inducing labour, however, is that the cervix isn't always quite ready for delivery because it is closed and still hard. A 'ripening' or softening treatment of the cervix is therefore often necessary before the active phase of delivery begins. This treatment can sometimes take one or two days. It is carried out at the maternity ward in Skövde.

There are several different ways of inducing labour, depending on how ripe the cervix is:

1. In the event of a very unripe cervix, prostaglandin is administered in tablet form. The treatment is repeated every two or four hours, up to

- eight times. Usually the patient enters labour herself during the treatment. If this doesn't happen, the procedure moves on to Step 2.
2. In the event of a slightly unripe cervix, a balloon catheter is inserted into the womb between the child's head and the cervix in order to provide mechanical dilation and softening of the cervix. When the balloon slides out the membranes are ruptured artificially so that the waters break. Usually a contraction-stimulating intravenous drip is administered a while later.
 3. In the event of a ripe cervix that has dilated a couple of centimetres: the membranes are ruptured so that the waters break. Usually a contraction-stimulating intravenous drip is administered a while later.

Once labour has started, delivery usually progresses at a normal pace.

When you approach the point at which your pregnancy becomes prolonged your midwife will book a time for induction at the specialist maternity ward in Skövde or Lidköping (on weekdays) or in the labour ward (at weekends).

Please note that we cannot guarantee induction on a particular day as it all depends on how busy the labour ward happens to be on that day. We want to be able to give you the best possible care, and for that reason it's sometimes best to wait a day or two until things are calmer in the labour ward. If that should be the case, we will always carry out a prolonged-pregnancy check.

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