

Comparison 2: Intermittent cardiotocography (CTG) compared with routine Pinard fetal stethoscope

Source: Martis R, Emilia O, Nurdiani DS, Brown J. Intermittent auscultation (IA) of fetal heart rate in labour for fetal well-being. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2017;(2):CD008680.

No. of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Quality assessment				Other considerations	No. of participants		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
			Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision			Intermittent CTG	Pinard	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Caesarean section													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	not serious	none	89/318 (28.0%)	46/315 (14.6%)	RR 1.92 (1.39 to 2.64)	134 more per 1000 (from 57 more to 239 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	critical	
Caesarean section for fetal distress													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	not serious	none	56/318 (17.6%)	19/315 (6.0%)	RR 2.92 (1.78 to 4.80)	116 more per 1000 (from 47 more to 229 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	critical	
Instrumental vaginal birth													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	serious ^b	none	31/318 (9.7%)	21/315 (6.7%)	RR 1.46 (0.86 to 2.49)	31 more per 1000 (from 9 fewer to 99 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical	
Fetal heart rate abnormality detected													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	not serious	none	172/318 (54.1%)	28/315 (8.9%)	RR 6.08 (4.21 to 8.79)	452 more per 1000 (from 285 more to 692 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	critical	
Early and late fetal heart rate decelerations detected													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	not serious	none	66/318 (20.8%)	23/315 (7.3%)	RR 2.84 (1.82 to 4.45)	134 more per 1000 (from 60 more to 252 more)	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	critical	
Hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	very serious ^{b,c}	none	2/318 (0.6%)	10/315 (3.2%)	RR 0.20 (0.04 to 0.90)	25 fewer per 1000 (from 3 fewer to 30 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical	

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		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Intermittent CTG	Pinard	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Seizures in the neonatal period												
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	serious ^c	none	0/318 (0.0%)	9/315 (2.9%)	RR 0.05 (0.00 to 0.89)	27 fewer per 1000 (from -- to 3 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical
Apgar < 7 at 5 minutes after birth												
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	very serious ^{b,c}	none	6/318 (1.9%)	9/315 (2.9%)	RR 0.66 (0.24 to 1.83)	10 fewer per 1000 (from 22 fewer to 24 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
Perinatal mortality												
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	very serious ^{b,c}	none	8/318 (2.5%)	9/315 (2.9%)	RR 0.88 (0.34 to 2.25)	3 fewer per 1000 (from 19 fewer to 36 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical

CI: confidence interval; RCT: randomized controlled trial; RR: risk ratio.

^a This study included high-risk pregnancies.

^b Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect.

^c Small sample size and/or few events.