Comparison: Upright position compared with recumbent position in the second stage of labour for women with epidural analgesia

Source: Kibuka M, Thornton JG. Position in the second stage of labour for women with epidural anaesthesia. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2017;(2):CD008070.

Quality assessment							No. of participants		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
No. of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Upright position	Recumbent position	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Duration of second stage labour (minutes) (from time of randomization to birth)												
2	RCTs	serious[a]	serious[b]	not serious	serious[c]	none	199	123	-	MD 22.98 lower (99.09 lower to 53.13 higher)	⨁◯◯◯ VERY LOW	critical
Spontaneous vaginal birth												
6	RCTs	serious[d]	serious[b]	not serious	not serious[e]	none	811/2018 (40.2%)	849/1949 (43.6%)	RR 0.97 (0.82–1.14)	13 fewer per 1000 (from 61 more to 78 fewer)	⨁⨁◯◯ LOW	critical
Operative birth (caesarean or instrumental vaginal)												
6	RCTs	serious[d]	not serious	not serious	not serious[e]	none	1206/2018 (59.8%)	1096/1949 (56.2%)	RR 1.04 (0.89–1.20)	22 more per 1000 (from 62 fewer to 112 more)	⨁⨁⨁◯ MODERATE	critical
Instrumental vaginal birth												
6	RCTs	serious[a]	not serious	not serious	not serious[e]	none	993/2018 (49.2%)	923/1949 (47.4%)	RR 1.05 (0.94–1.18)	24 more per 1000 (from 28 fewer to 85 more)	⨁⨁⨁◯ MODERATE	critical
Caesarean section												
6	RCTs	serious[d]	not serious	not serious	serious[c]	none	213/2018 (10.6%)	173/1949 (8.9%)	RR 1.05 (0.71–1.55)	4 more per 1000 (from 26 fewer to 49 more)	⨁⨁◯◯ LOW	critical
Trauma to birth canal requiring suturing												
3	RCTs	serious[a]	not serious	not serious	not serious[e]	none	1350/1639 (82.4%)	1320/1627 (81.1%)	RR 1.01 (0.89–1.14)	8 more per 1000 (from 89 fewer to 114 more)	⨁⨁⨁◯ MODERATE	critical
Blood loss requiring transfusion												
1	RCT	serious[f]	not serious	not serious	serious[c]	none	63/1556 (4.0%)	52/1537 (3.4%)	RR 1.20 (0.83–1.72)	7 more per 1000 (from 6 fewer to 24 more)	⨁⨁◯◯ LOW	critical
Maternal satisfaction with childbirth experience												
1	RCT	serious[f]	not serious	not serious	not serious[e]	none	963/1556 (61.9%)	973/1537 (63.3%)	RR 0.98 (0.93–1.03)	13 fewer per 1000 (from 19 more to 44 fewer)	⨁⨁⨁◯ MODERATE	critical

Quality assessment							No. of participants		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
No. of studies	Study design	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Upright position	Recumbent position	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Apgar score < 7 at 5 minutes												
2	RCTs	serious[a]	not serious	not serious	serious[c]	none	2/1614 (0.1%)	3/1586 (0.2%)	RR 0.66 (0.11–3.94)	1 fewer per 1000 (from 2 fewer to 6 more)	⨁⨁◯◯ LOW	critical
Abnormal fetal heart rate patterns requiring intervention												
1	RCT	serious[f]	not serious	not serious	very serious[g]	none	4/58 (6.9%)	2/49 (4.1%)	RR 1.69 (0.32–8.84)	28 more per 1000 (from 28 fewer to 320 more)	⨁◯◯◯ VERY LOW	critical
Low cord pH												
2	RCTs	serious[a]	not serious	not serious	not serious	none	9/1581 (0.6%)	25/1578 (1.6%)	RR 0.43 (0.20–0.90)	9 fewer per 1000 (from 2 fewer to 13 fewer)	⨁⨁⨁◯ MODERATE	critical
Infant resuscitation												
1	RCT	serious[f]	not serious	not serious	serious[c]	none	92/1556 (5.9%)	91/1537 (5.9%)	RR 1.00 (0.75–1.32)	0 fewer per 1000 (from 15 fewer to 19 more)	⨁⨁◯◯ LOW	critical
Perinatal death												
1	RCT	serious[f]	not serious	not serious	serious[c]	none	1/1556 (0.1%)	0/1537 (0.0%)	RR 2.96 (0.12–72.69)	0 fewer per 1000 (from 0 fewer to 0 fewer)	⨁⨁◯◯ LOW	critical

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

[a] Most of the pooled effect derived from studies with a moderate or high risk of bias but without a substantial proportion (i.e. with < 50%) from studies with a high risk of bias.

[b] CI is imprecise.

[c] Most of the pooled effect derived from studies with a moderate or high risk of bias but with a substantial proportion (i.e. > 50%) from studies with a high risk of bias.

[d] Small sample size and/or few events.

[e] Confidence interval crossing the line of no effect but precise (not downgraded).

[f] Single study with design limitations.

[g] Wide confidence interval crossing the line of no effect, and a small sample size.