

Comparison: Manual fundal pressure compared with no fundal pressure

Source: Hofmeyr G, Vogel JP, Cuthbert A, Singata M. Fundal pressure during the second stage of labour. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2017;(3):CD006067.

No. of studies	Study design	Quality assessment					Other considerations	No. of participants		Effect		Certainty (GRADE)	Importance
		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision			Manual fundal pressure	No fundal pressure	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Caesarean section													
1	RCT	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^{a,c}	none	1/94 (1.1%)	1/103 (1.0%)	RR 1.10 (0.07-17.27)	1 more per 1000 (from 9 fewer to 158 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical	
Instrumental vaginal birth													
1	RCT	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^{a,c}	none	1/94 (1.1%)	0/103 (0.0%)	RR 3.28 (0.14-79.65)	0 fewer per 1000 (from 0 fewer to 0 fewer)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical	
Duration of active second stage													
1	RCT	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^a	none	92	102	-	MD 0.8 lower (3.66 lower to 2.06 higher)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical	
No spontaneous vaginal birth within a specified time, as defined by the trial authors													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious ^a	none	34/58 (58.6%)	38/62 (61.3%)	RR 0.96 (0.71-1.28)	25 fewer per 1000 (from 172 more to 178 fewer)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical	
Postpartum haemorrhage													
1	RCT	not serious	not serious	not serious	very serious ^{a,c}	none	7/58 (12.1%)	4/62 (6.5%)	RR 1.87 (0.58-6.06)	56 more per 1000 (from 27 fewer to 326 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical	
Episiotomy													
2	RCTs	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	serious ^a	none	69/152 (45.4%)	64/165 (38.8%)	RR 1.18 (0.92-1.50)	70 more per 1000 (from 31 fewer to 194 more)	⊕⊕○○ LOW	critical	
Soft-tissue damage - perineal													
1	RCT	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^{a,c}	none	6/101 (5.9%)	1/108 (0.9%)	RR 6.42 (0.79-52.37)	50 more per 1000 (from 2 fewer to 476 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical	
Soft-tissue damage - vaginal laceration													
1	RCT	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^a	none	29/149 (19.5%)	23/146 (15.8%)	RR 1.24 (0.75-2.03)	38 more per 1000 (from 39 fewer to 162 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical	

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		Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other considerations	Manual fundal pressure	No fundal pressure	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute (95% CI)		
Soft-tissue damage - uterine												
1	RCT	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^{a,c}	none	10/149 (6.7%)	2/146 (1.4%)	RR 4.90 (1.09-21.98)	53 more per 1000 (from 1 more to 287 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
Neonatal trauma - fractures												
1	RCT	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^{c,e}	none	0/101 (0.0%)	0/108 (0.0%)	not estimable		⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
Neonatal trauma - haematoma												
1	RCT	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^{c,e}	none	0/101 (0.0%)	0/108 (0.0%)	not estimable		⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
Admission to neonatal intensive care unit												
1	RCT	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^{a,c}	none	5/149 (3.4%)	3/146 (2.1%)	RR 1.63 (0.40-6.71)	13 more per 1000 (from 12 fewer to 117 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
Low arterial cord pH												
2	RCTs	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^a	none	27/140 (19.3%)	27/157 (17.2%)	RR 1.07 (0.72-1.58)	12 more per 1000 (from 48 fewer to 100 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
Apgar score <7 at 5 minutes												
4	RCTs	serious ^b	serious ^d	not serious	serious ^a	none	76/1424 (5.3%)	7/1335 (0.5%)	RR 4.48 (0.28-71.45)	18 more per 1000 (from 4 fewer to 369 more)	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical
Neonatal death												
2	RCTs	serious ^b	not serious	not serious	very serious ^{c,e}	none	0/1272 (0.0%)	0/1173 (0.0%)	not pooled	see comment	⊕○○○ VERY LOW	critical

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

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

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

^c Small sample size and/or few events.

^d Severe unexplained heterogeneity.

^e No events.