

Comparison: delaying admission compared with direct admission to the labour ward

Source: Kobayashi S, Hanada N, Matsuzaki M, Takehara K, Ota E, Sasaki H, Nagata C, Mori R. Assessment and support during early labour for improving birth outcomes. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2017;(4):CD011516.

| Quality assessment | | | | | | | No. of participants | | Effect | | Certainty (GRADE) | Importance |
|--|--------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|---|----------------------|---|-------------------|------------|
| No. of studies | Study design | Risk of bias | Inconsistency | Indirectness | Imprecision | Other considerations | Delaying admission for women in early labour following initial assessment | Direct admission for women in early labour following initial assessment | Relative (95% CI) | Absolute (95% CI) | | |
| Rate of caesarean section | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | RCT | serious ^a | not serious | not serious | very serious ^{b,c} | none | 8/105 (7.6%) | 11/104 (10.6%) | RR 0.72 (0.30-1.72) | 30 fewer per 1000 (from 74 fewer to 76 more) | ⊕○○○ VERY LOW | critical |
| Rate of instrumental vaginal birth | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | RCT | serious ^a | not serious | not serious | very serious ^{b,c} | none | 32/105 (30.5%) | 37/104 (35.6%) | RR 0.86 (0.58-1.26) | 50 fewer per 1000 (from 93 more to 149 fewer) | ⊕○○○ VERY LOW | critical |
| Length of labour (hours) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | RCT | serious ^a | not serious | not serious | serious ^b | none | 105 | 104 | - | MD 5.2 lower (7.06 lower to 3.34 lower) | ⊕⊕○○ LOW | critical |
| Use of epidural or any regional anaesthesia | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | RCT | serious ^a | not serious | not serious | serious ^b | none | 83/105 (79.0%) | 94/104 (90.4%) | RR 0.87 (0.78-0.98) | 118 fewer per 1000 (from 18 fewer to 199 fewer) | ⊕⊕○○ LOW | critical |
| Maternal satisfaction (score) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | RCT | serious ^a | not serious | not serious | serious ^b | none | 99 | 102 | - | MD 16 higher (7.53 higher to 24.47 higher) | ⊕⊕○○ LOW | critical |
| Apgar score < 7 at 5 minutes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | RCT | serious ^a | not serious | not serious | very serious ^{b,c} | none | 1/105 (1.0%) | 0/104 (0.0%) | RR 2.97 (0.12-72.12) | 0 fewer per 1000 (from 0 fewer to 0 fewer) | ⊕○○○ VERY 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 moderate or high risk of bias but without a substantial proportion (i.e. with < 50%) from studies with high risk of bias.

^b Small sample size and/or few events.

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