



Don't schedule an elective cesarean section in uncomplicated singleton pregnancies before 39 weeks gestation.

Cesarean delivery, in the absence of labor, before 39 weeks has been shown to be associated with an increased risk of neonatal respiratory complications, learning disabilities, and a potential increase in mortality. Therefore, many international obstetric bodies including ACOG, RANZCOG, and NICE recommend delaying elective cesarean birth in uncomplicated singleton pregnancies until 39 weeks gestation or later.

Elimination of non-medically indicated (elective) deliveries before 39 weeks gestational age. Main E, Oshiro B, Chagolla B, Bingham D, Dang-Kilduff L, Kowalewski L (California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative). California: March of Dimes; First edition July 2010. California Department of Public Health; Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division; Contract No: 08-85012.

ACOG educational bulletin. Assessment of fetal lung maturity. Number 230, 1996. Committee on Educational Bulletins of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Int J Gynaecol Obstet 1997; 56: 191-8.

National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence: Clinical Guideline Caesarean section 2011. Available at: www.nice.org.uk/cg132

RANZCOG statement on Timing of elective cesarean section at term. March 2018