



Perinatal Services BC

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Timing of elective repeat cesarean delivery at term: the influence of maternal, care provider and institutional factors

A Perinatal Services BC Surveillance Abstract

December 16, 2011

Abstract

Objectives: To establish risk factors for early term (37-38 weeks) elective repeat cesarean delivery in a population-based cohort and to quantify the risks of maternal and neonatal complications associated with planned repeat cesareans performed after the onset of labour.

Study Design: Medical records of 7687 elective repeat cesarean deliveries in British Columbia, Canada (2008-2011) were obtained from the BC Perinatal Data Registry. Early term delivery rates according to maternal, care provider, and institutional factors were established using generalized linear models. Risks associated with pre-cesarean labour were calculated.

Results: 55% of elective repeat cesareans were performed before 39+0 weeks. Early term delivery was significantly more common with multiple previous cesareans (8.2 percentage points higher [95%CI 5.5, 10.9] for 2 previous cesareans), obesity (6.7 percentage points [95%CI 1.6, 11.7]), and lower hospital obstetrical volume. Pre-cesarean labour was associated with increased risks of serious maternal and neonatal complications (OR= 2.10 [95%CI 1.07, 4.13], 2.31 [95%CI 1.25, 4.27], respectively).

Conclusions: Quality-improvement programs are needed to reduce the number of elective repeat cesarean deliveries performed before 39 weeks. However, recognition of the potential risks associated with spontaneous labour before the scheduled surgery date is important when implementing policies to shift deliveries to later term ages.