



## Medical Procedures

Method	How It's Done	Why It's Done/ Benefits	Risks to Mom	Risks to Baby
<b>Induction</b> <i>(Using medication or procedures to start labor)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mechanical dilator</b> (device inserted in cervix and expanded)</li> <li>• <b>Sweeping membranes</b> (provider separates amniotic sac from uterus)</li> <li>• <b>Cervical ripening agents</b> (medicine applied on or near cervix)</li> <li>• <b>Pitocin</b> (medicine added to IV)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too far past due date</li> <li>• Water breaks without contractions</li> <li>• Pregnancy has put you or baby at risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased chance of cesarean birth</li> <li>• Increased labor discomfort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fetal distress</li> </ul>
<b>Augmentation</b> <i>(Using medication or procedures to speed up labor)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pitocin</b></li> <li>• <b>Amniotomy</b> (breaking the bag of water)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labor slows down</li> <li>• Need for stronger, more frequent contractions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't always shorten labor</li> <li>• Infection (with amniotomy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fetal distress</li> </ul>
<b>Analgesic</b> <i>(Narcotic pain medication)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nurse adds medicine to an IV or injects it into your thigh or hip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be given shortly after requested</li> <li>• Provides fast relief</li> <li>• Doesn't numb muscles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drowsiness, nausea, and itching</li> <li>• May slow breathing</li> <li>• May lower blood pressure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slow breathing</li> <li>• Sleepy and less alert at birth</li> </ul>
<b>Epidural</b> <i>(Regional anesthesia that numbs pain in the lower body)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anesthesiologist or nurse anesthetist places a catheter in your lower back that carries medicine to you</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe, effective pain relief</li> <li>• Chance to rest</li> <li>• Does not affect mental state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shivering, fever, itching, nausea</li> <li>• Lowered blood pressure</li> <li>• Incomplete pain relief</li> <li>• Other rare risks are listed on consent form</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant risks to the baby are known</li> </ul>
<b>Second Stage Interventions</b> <i>(Procedures that help baby through birth canal)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Episiotomy</b> (an incision in the perineum)</li> <li>• <b>Vacuum extractor</b> (a suction cup and pump that helps guide the baby out)</li> <li>• <b>Forceps</b> (an instrument shaped like tongs to help guide the baby out)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too tired to push</li> <li>• Epidural causes ineffective pushing</li> <li>• Baby needs to be born quickly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't offer substantial benefit (episiotomy)</li> <li>• Increased pain and infection after birth (episiotomy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary marks/bruising on the baby's face or head (vacuum/forceps)</li> </ul>