

# Study finds in women with prior cesarean, optimal gestational age for elective delivery is week 39

February 10 2012

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In a study to be presented today at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine's annual meeting, The Pregnancy Meeting, in Dallas, Texas, researchers will report findings that indicate that for women with prior delivery via cesarean section the optimal timing of elective delivery for mother and baby is 39 weeks even after consideration of the risk with continuing pregnancy.

"Prior studies have compared the perinatal risks of elective delivery at 37 to 41 weeks gestation, but didn't evaluate the hazard of delivery versus not delivering at a specific time point," said Giuseppe Chiossi, MD, who conducted the study for the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Maternal-Fetal Medicine Units Network, Bethesda, Md. "We wanted to compare the risks of elective repeat cesarean at each [gestational age](#) starting at 37 weeks with the cumulative maternal and neonatal risks of not delivering at that particular gestational age."

The study, entitled Timing of Delivery and Adverse Outcomes in Term [Singleton](#) Repeat [Cesarean Deliveries](#) (CD), found that elective repeat cesarean deliveries at a later gestational age were associated with significantly lower rates of composite adverse neonatal outcomes when compared with 37 and 38 weeks deliveries. Moreover, adverse [neonatal outcomes](#) were significantly more frequent in pregnancies continued beyond 39 weeks versus elective cesarean at 39 weeks. On the other

hand, maternal outcomes tended to be better with continued [pregnancy](#) rather than elective cesarean at 37 or 38 weeks, but the difference was significant only at 37 weeks. Composite maternal outcomes were significantly worse for later deliveries compared with elective cesarean at 39 weeks. These associations remained after controlling for confounders.

**More information:** A copy of the abstract is available at [www.smfmnewsroom.org/annual-me ... 1-meeting-abstracts/](http://www.smfmnewsroom.org/annual-me...1-meeting-abstracts/)

Provided by Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Citation: Study finds in women with prior cesarean, optimal gestational age for elective delivery is week 39 (2012, February 10) retrieved 4 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-02-women-prior-cesarean-optimal-gestational.html>

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