

NZCOM CONSENSUS STATEMENT

Vaginal Birth after Caesarean Section

This Consensus Statement was ratified at National Committee Meeting 11 May 1996

The NZCOM does not support routine repeat caesarean section.

Vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC) is a safe option for the majority of women. Women considering their birthing options following caesarean section should have access to research-based information regarding the outcomes of VBAC.

Guidelines:

Midwives have a responsibility to discuss the following issues with a woman considering VBAC:

- Review reasons for previous caesarean section(s)
- Clinical records, surgical complications, wound healing, emotional and physical recovery
- Intended place of birth
- Options regarding caregivers
- Option for second opinion

References:

Title: Care of Women with Previous Caesarean Birth

Author: New Zealand Guidelines Group

Source: www.nzgg.org.nz. 2004

Title: Guide to Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth

Author: Enkin M W, Chalmers I, Keirse MJNC et al

Source: Oxford University Press, 2000, Chapter 38

Title: Vaginal Birth after Caesarean

Author: Caroline Sufrin-Disler

Source: Int Childbirth Education Association Inc, ICEA Review, Aug 1990 Vol. 14 No. 3

Title: Vaginal Birth after Caesarean Fact Sheet

Source: ICEA Fact Sheet, IJCE, November 1991

Title: Unnecessary Caesareans: Ways to Avoid Them

Authors: Diony Young and Charles Matian

Source: ICEA, second edition 1989

Title: A Successful Labour and Support Service for VBAC Families

Source: International Journal Childbirth Educators (IJCE), Feb 1990

Title: Vaginal Delivery following One Previous Caesarean Birth : Nationwide Survey

Source: Asia-Oceania Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Vol. 16 No. 1 1990

Title: The Vaginal Birth after Caesarean Experience

Author: Lynn Baptisti Richards

Source: Bergin and Garvey, Publishers, Mass. USA, 1987

Title: Silent Knife : Caesarean Prevention and VBAC
Authors: Nancy Wainer Cohen and Lois Jestner
Source: Bergin and Garvey Publishers, Mass. USA, 1983

Title: Is vaginal birth after caesarean safe? Experience at a community hospital
Author: Blanchette H, Blanchette M, McCabe J, Vincent S.
Source: Am J Obstet Gynecol 2001; 184: 1468-1484.

Title: Vaginal Birth after Caesarean: a meta-analysis of morbidity and mortality
Author: Rosen M, Dickinson J, Westhoff C.
Source: Obstet Gynecol 1991;77:465-70

Title: Guidelines for Consultation with Obstetric and Related Specialist Medical Services
Source: Appendix I, Section 88 Maternity Notice, Ministry of Health, July 2002

Title: Vaginal Birth after previous caesarean delivery (VBAC)
Author: American College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Source: Medscape Ob/Gyn and Women's Health 7 (1), 2002
www.medscape.com

The purpose of New Zealand College of Midwives Consensus Statements is to provide women, midwives and the maternity services with the profession's position on any given situation. The guidelines are designed to educate and support best practice.

All position statements are regularly reviewed and updated in line with evidence-based practice