COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY

ABNORMALITIES OF LIE / PRESENTATION

BREECH PRESENTATION VAGINAL BIRTH – QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FLOW CHART

This Quick Reference Guide Flow Chart must be used in conjunction with its respective Clinical Guidelines, Section Breech Labour and Birth. Medical and midwifery staff should be familiar with the contents of the full guideline.

### NOTE 1: DEFINITION OF UNCOMPPLICATED BREECH

- Flexed or extended legs
- 37-42 weeks gestation
- No evidence of cephalopelvic disproportion (CPD)
- Clinical estimation of fetus >2.5kg and < 3.8kg
- Well flexed head
- No anticipated mechanical difficulty

### NOTE 2: PROGRESS OF LABOUR

- Cervical dilatation of 1cm per hour regardless of parity
- In second stage – should be progressive descent of the buttocks through the pelvis, and the breech should be on the pelvic floor within 1 hour of full dilatation, even in the absence of active pushing.

### NOTE 3: LABOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Inform the obstetric Consultant at the onset of labour, and when the woman’s cervix is fully dilated.
- Notify the paediatrician at the onset of labour, and arrange also to be present at the birth.
- Continuous fetal monitoring
- Availability of facilities to perform a caesarean section.
- Arrange additional equipment – e.g. breech towel, lithotomy stirrups.
- Confirm the cervix is fully dilated prior to pushing to ensure the woman does not have a premature urge to push.
- When fully dilated the women should not be encourage to actively push until she has a strong urge to do so, or the buttocks are on view.
- Birth should be imminent after 1 hour of active pushing in a nullipara, and after ½ hour of active pushing for a multipara.
- Consider urinary catheterisation prior to birth.
- Controlled and gentle birth of the neonate’s head:
  - Maurice Smellie-Veit grip (or adaptations for active birth positions)
  - Forceps to the after-coming head
- **No** breech extraction

Do not administer third stage oxytocic until after the breech birth is completed i.e. until the head is delivered.

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BREECH LABOUR AND BIRTH FLOW CHART
Woman in labour with uncomplicated breech presentation

**Note 1**

Obstetric registrar or above informed and management plan discussed

**Known breech?**

**YES**

Advanced labour/birth imminent?

**Note 3**

**NO**

**Planned vaginal birth?**

**YES**

Satisfactory progress?

**Note 2**

- Review contraindications
- Discuss options
- Informed choice and consent

**NO**

Discuss with Consultant Obstetrician re further management

- Continue with documented birth plan

**FULLY DILATED, BREACH ON PERINEUM?**

**YES**

Vaginal birth with consultant present

**Note 3**

**NO**

Caesarean section birth