

Summary

The present study was a prospective randomized clinical trial that was conducted to compare the efficiency and safety of the transcervical Foley's catheter balloon in comparison to vaginal misoprostol in induction of labor in post date.

Sixty pregnant women admitted for labor induction for post date in the present study which was conducted at labor ward of Benha Hospital and El-Kanayat Hospital during the period from July 2010 to December 2011.

Women in this study were divided into two groups. **Group I** of pregnant women were assigned for the use of transcervical Foley's catheter, sized 16 French with 30 ml of balloon capacity, which was inserted under aseptic condition and was kept for a maximum period of 12 hours till its spontaneous expulsion or till a ripe cervix was reached (Bishop score > 6). **Group II** women were randomized to the use of 25 µg of misoprostol inserted intravaginally in the posterior fornix every eight hours, for a maximum dose of 75 µg (or 3 doses), till a ripe cervix was reached.

All pregnant women who met the inclusion criteria were submitted to full history taking, general, abdominal and vaginal examinations to determine the Bishop score and ultrasound scanning to exclude the presence of any of the exclusion criteria after obtaining an informed consent.

Record of the time of insertion of each treatment modalities was taken, time of subsequent dose and number of patients were given

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oxytocin in both groups when indicated, with respect that it was not started until 6 hours after the last dose, in those pregnant women who received intravaginal misoprostol.

Records were kept for occurrence of any complication, route of deliveries and time, and the neonatal outcomes including Apgar score at one and five minutes.

Statistical analysis of the obtained results showed the two groups to form a cohort being corresponding as regard mean age parity, estimated gestational age and the Bishop score.

Foley's catheter use had significantly reduced the total time from induction till delivery.

Both treatment modalities under investigation had no effect on the route of delivery of the women. Occurrence of complication with use of either method did not have any significant statistics between them.

Based on the previous finding, it was concluded that both misoprostol and Foley's catheter were effective in induction of labor but the latter had a shorter time of achieving the desired effect.