Introduction

It was observed that infants delivered by caesarean section have lower skin temperatures than those delivered per vaginum "***Christensson et al (1993)***" a response which has been linked to a decreased ability to generate heat "***Symonds et al (1994)***".

Studies of infants have indicated that caesarean section delivery inhibits the post partum surges in thyroid hormones "***Irestedt et al (1982)***", and recent studies have indicated that plasma thyroid hormones concentrations remain lower in caesarean section infants than those delivered vaginally over the first 24 hours of life "***Bagnoli et al (1993)***".

Neonatal plasma concentrations of thyroid hormones are know to peak within 2 hours of birth "***Simila et al (1975)***" but the influence of labour on these hormones in neonates immediately after birth remain unclear. "***Bird et al (1996)***".

Aim of the work

This work aims to examine the influence of mode of delivery on the neonatal thyroid hormones immediately after birth, by comparing serum concentrations of these hormones in neonates deliverd by normal vaginal deliveries and those by caesrean sections.