

Epidurals and length of 2nd stage of labour

**INFLUENCE OF EPIDURALS ON DURATION OF 2nd STAGE AND RATE OF MECONIUM**

	NO EPIDURAL n = 1598	EPIDURAL n = 2997	TOTAL n = 4595
mean duration of 2nd stage	47'	72'	63'
rate of meconium	249/1598 (15.6%)	600/2997 (20.0%)	849/4595 (18.5%)

**primipara's, vertex presentation, JGH 1985-1987**

	1985	1986	1987	1988
Patients (total)	1127	1089	1142	1227
Epidural Anesthesia	599 (53.1%)	687 (63.1%)	806 (70.6%)	905 (73.8%)
Spontaneous vag. del.	588 (52.2%)	566 (52.0%)	56.8 (49.7%)	603 (49.1%)
Length of Gestation				
38-41.6	1094 (97.1%)	1056 (97.0%)	1112 (97.4%)	1201 (97.9%)
42	33 (2.9%)	33 (3.0%)	30 (2.6%)	26 (2.1%)
Birth Weight				
2500g	28 (2.4%)	21 (1.9%)	22 (1.9%)	32 (2.6%)
2500-4500g	1085 (96.3%)	1052 (96.6%)	1108 (97.0%)	1177 (95.9%)
4500g	14 (1.2%)	16 (1.5%)	12 (1.1%)	18 (1.5%)
Oxytocin Use				
none	665 (59.0%)	621 (57.1%)	632 (55.3%)	689 (56.1%)
stimulation	297 (26.3%)	279 (25.7%)	333 (29.2%)	348 (28.4%)
induction	165 (14.6%)	189 (17.4%)	177 (15.5%)	180 (15.5%)
Antenatal complic.				
Diabetes	35 (3.1%)	41 (3.8%)	29 (2.6%)	48 (3.9%)
Hypertension	56 (5.0%)	40 (3.7%)	35 (3.1%)	30 (2.4%)
rate of cesarean sect.	183 (16.2%)	192 (17.6%)	213 (18.9%)	265 (21.6%)
rate of dystocia	118 (10.5%)	128 (11.8%)	134 (11.7%)	147 (12.2%)
rate of fetal distress	52 (4.6%)	44 (4.0%)	68 (5.9%)	83 (6.7%)
all patients				
number (rate) meconium	135 (12.1%)	72 (17.9%)	59 (17.5%)	56 (16.86%)
length 2nd stage	52' ± sd	31'	44'	55'
epidural				
number (rate) meconium	80 (13.35%)	123 (17.5%)	194 (24.06%)	203 (22.43%)
length 2nd stage	51' ± sd	71' ± sd	76' ± sd	99' ± sd
no epidural				
number (rate) meconium	62 (11.74%)	72 (17.9%)	59 (17.5%)	56 (16.86%)
length 2nd stage	52'	31'	44'	55'