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Induction of Labour: Indications, Techniques and Results at the Hospital  
Center of Nevers

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Abstract

**Introduction:** Induction of labor initiation represents the whole methods which lead to a birth of a child without waiting for the startup spontaneous of baby delivery. Many situations can take a practitioner to decide: from medical reasons to the triggering of convenience. The aim is to study the direction, methods and results of labor induction at Nevers agglomeration hospital center (CHAN).

**Methods:** This transverse prospective study took place at CHAN during the period from January 1 to June 30, 2020 (6 months). It included pregnant women carrying a pregnancy of more than 28 SA with an indication of labor's induction. Sociodemographic, clinical and therapeutic variables were analyzed. The determinants of the failure of the trigger had been sought.

**Results:** We recorded on all 138 cases of labor induction out of a total of 563 deliveries, representing a frequency of 24.5%. The women involved were on average 31 years old. Most direction of labor was medical and were marked out for RPM (26,6%), extended pregnancy (19,9%) gestational diabetes (19,1%) and pre-eclampsia (9,2%); the directions of convenience support (5%). The most method used were prostaglandin (a strip of proposs) (42.8%) followed by oxytocin use (30%) as well as detachment of membranes (16.7%) as well as Cook Cervical Ripening Balloon at lower percentage (4,3 %). Almost all of the triggers resulted in a vaginal delivery (78.3%) the c- section was reported in 21.7% of cases. The determinants of failure were early amniotomy with defavorable Bishop score and a delay between induction and delivery of more than 9 hours [ORa: 2.6 CI95% (1.5-4.7) p-0.029]. All children were Apgar higher than 6, at the first five minute of life, but among them 6 or 4.3% were referred to the neonatology unit (instrumental extraction, Respiratory distress, obstetric maneuvers).

**Conclusion:** The induction of labor remains an act of great importance and contributes to the reduction of maternal and/or perinatal mortality and morbidity as well as to the reduction of the rate of caesarean section at NHC.

**Keywords:** Direction, Methods, Results, NHC

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## Introduction

Induction of labor is the artificial induction of uterine contractions before their spontaneous onset in a woman who was not previously in labor, with the aim of obtaining a vaginal birth [1]. It is performed either for maternal or fetal indications in order to reduce morbidity and perinatal mortality without increasing maternal morbidity, or for reasons of convenience. The decision to trigger falls within the competence of the obstetrician. Several techniques can be used (mechanical and/or medicinal) [2, 3].

Indeed, induction of labor is becoming more and more common around the world. In developed countries, up to 25% of women benefit from induction of labor, while in developing countries the rates recorded are generally lower, but increasing according to WHO 2015 [4]. Prolonged pregnancy, premature rupture of the membranes as well as maternal or fetal pathology requiring the birth of the child require artificial induction of labor [5].

Its rate has been increasing globally in many countries of the world over the past two decades. Its practice doubled in France between 1980 and 1995, rising from 10.4% to 20.5%. Since then, this rate has been stable. It is 19.7% according to the 2003 perinatal survey [6]. The induction rate is also increasing overall in many countries [7,8] going, for example, from 9% to 21% in the United States between 1989-2004 and from 25% to 29% in Australia between 1998-2007. In 2003, the European trigger rate was quite variable, ranging from 10% in Sweden or Denmark, to 32% in Belgium or Northern Ireland [9]. This is probably due to a different trigger policy between these countries. In Africa, the rate of artificial induction of labor was 2.49% in 2001 in Bamako [10] and 2.31% between 1994-1995 in Abidjan [11]. In Pakistan, it was 15% in 2008 [12].

## Patients and Method

This study was conducted at the Nevers Hospital Center, the only level 2B hospital in the department of Nièvre in France. This is a cross-sectional prospective study on the indications, methods and results of labor induction during the period from January 1 to 30 June 2020 (six months). The target population was made up of all the pregnant women who came to consult and whose situations were eligible for an artificial induction of labor. Included was any pregnant woman carrying a pregnancy of more than 28 weeks with an indication of artificial induction of labor. Not included was any pregnant woman carrying a pregnancy of less than 28 WA or presenting no indication of induction or not having expressed verbal or written consent. Data collection was carried out using hospital patient registers, patient medical records and electronic data. A collection sheet has been developed for this purpose.

The data processing was done in several stages:

- Manual counting of the questionnaires;
- Seizure; purification and encoding on Excel 2013;
- The analysis was performed on SPSS version 24; the presentation of the data was done in the form of tables and figures.

The descriptive analyzes carried out are the mean and the standard deviation for the quantitative data with a Gaussian distribution and the median with the interquartile space (IQS), for the data with a non-Gaussian distribution, the relative (%) and absolute (n) for categorical or qualitative data.

Pearson's chi-square test or Fisher's exact test was performed to compare the percentages. Student's t test compared the means. Determinants of induction failure were identified by logistic regression. The association between each factor tested and mortality was estimated using the odds ratio (OR) and its 95% confidence interval. For all the tests used, the significance level was set at 5%.

## Results

### 1. Frequency of induction of labor

During the period of this study, we recorded a total of 563 deliveries in the Gynecology-Obstetrics Department of which 446 vaginally (78.3%) and 127 by caesarean section (21.7%), which 76.4% was planned and 23.6% induction failure: Among these deliveries, 138 were initiated, which represents a frequency by 24.5%.

### 2. Sociodemographic data of the study population

#### 2.1. Participant ages

<b>Table 1:</b> Distribution of participants according to age groups.	
Variables	
Age (ans) : $X \pm ET$	30.9 $\pm$ 5.8
	n(%)
<30 ans	45(32.6)
30 à 44 ans	92(66.7)
>44 ans	1(0.7)
The mean age of the study population was 30.9 years with a standard deviation of 6 years. Most were between 30 and 44 years old, or 66.7% of cases.	

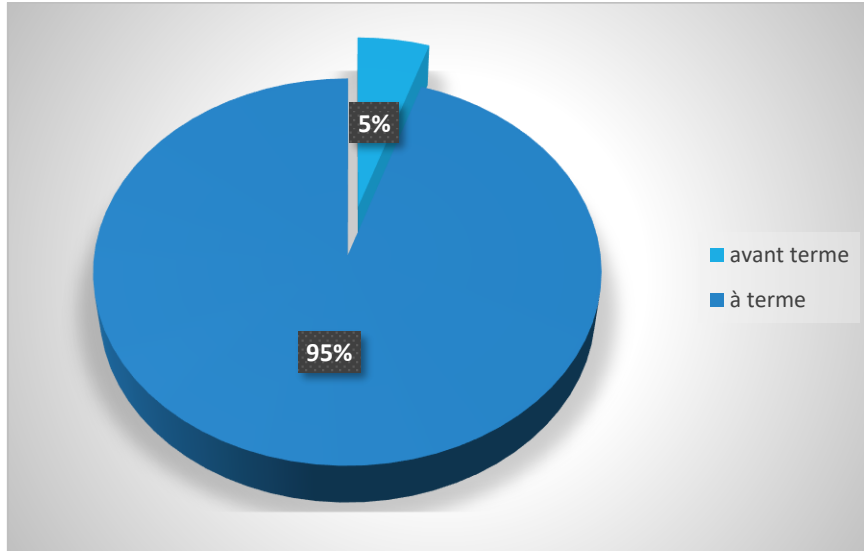
### 3. Participants' clinical data

#### 3.1. Gynecological identity of participants

<b>Table 2:</b> Distribution of participants according to their gynecological identity.	
Variables	n(%)
Parity	
Primiparous	44(31.9)
Multiparous	94(68.1)
Gravida	
Primigravida	37(26.8)
Multigravida	101(73.2)
It emerges from this table that the majority of participants were multiparous (68.1%) and the proportion of multigravida was 73.2%.	

### 3.2. Gestational age

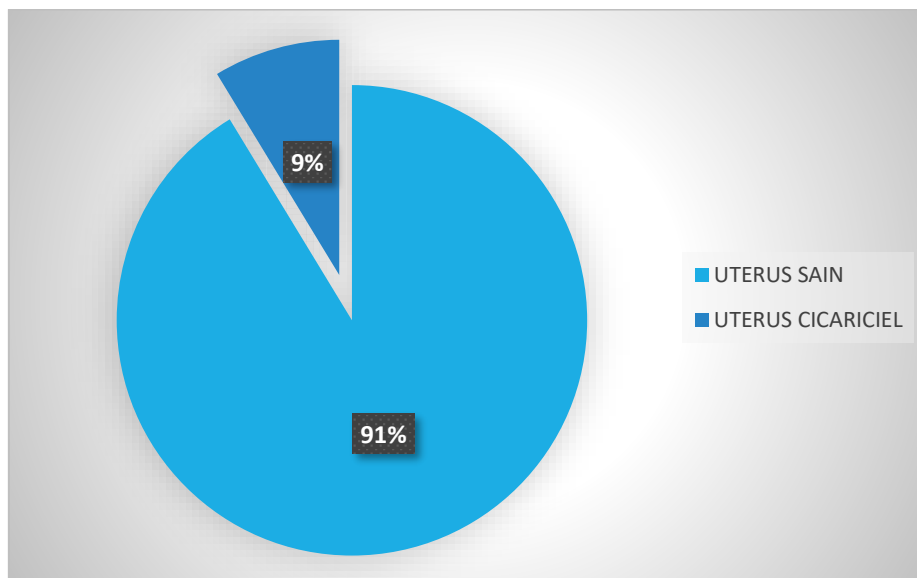
This figure shows that almost all inductions were performed on full-term pregnancies, 132 or 95% of cases.



**Figure 1:** Distribution of participants according to their gestational age.

### 3.3. State of the uterus

Of the 138 women in whom induction had been performed, 126 or 91% had a healthy uterus and 12 women or 9% had a scar in their uterus.

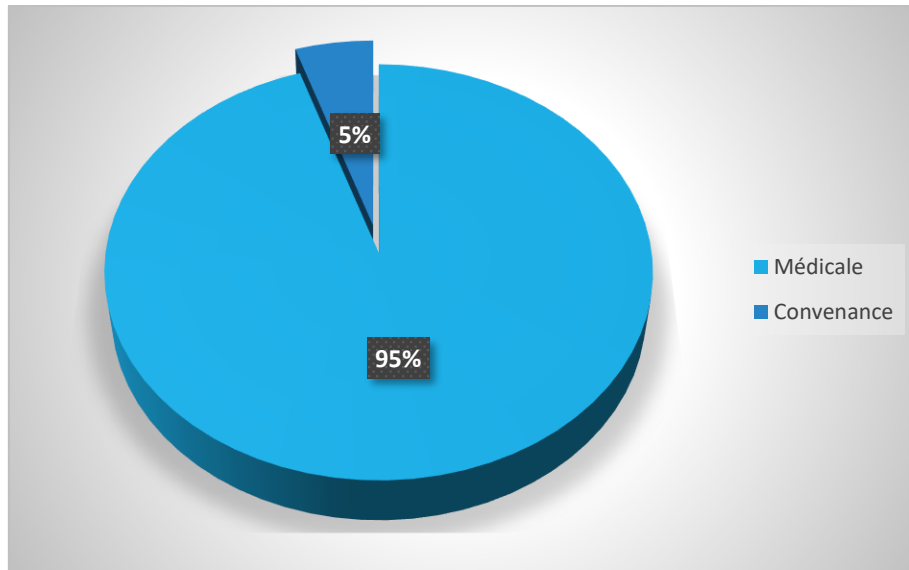


**Figure 2:** Distribution of participants by condition of the uterus.

### 3.4. Trigger indications

#### 3.4.1. Indication types

Of the 138 initiations carried out during this study, 131 or 95% were for medical indications and 7 or 5% for convenience.



**Figure 3:** Distribution of participants according to the types of trigger indications.

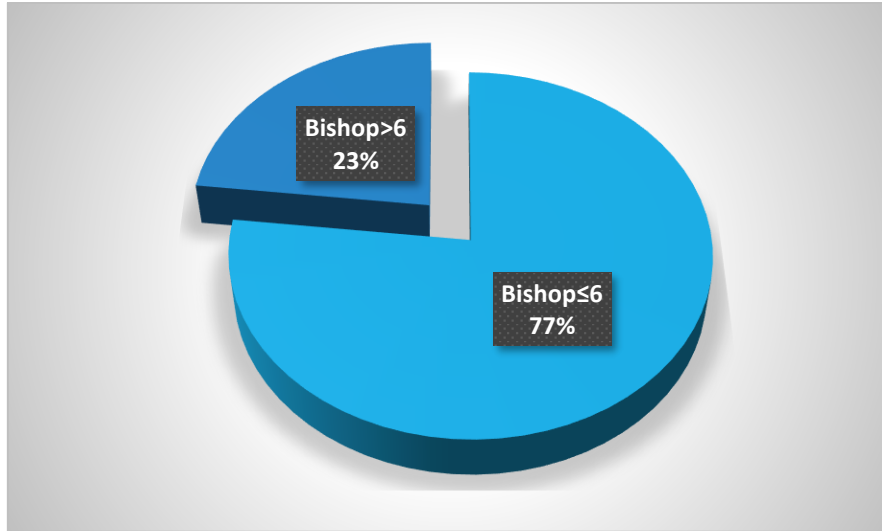
#### 3.4.2. The main medical indications

<b>Table 3:</b> Breakdown of participants according to main medical indications.	
Variables	n=131
Premature rupture of membranes	35 (26,6)
Post-term /prolonged pregnancy	27 (19,9)
Gestational diabetes	26 (19,1)
Preeclampsia	12 (9,2)
IUGR	6 (4,6)
FHRA	4 (3,1)
High blood pressure	4 (3,1)
Twin pregnancy	3 (2,3)
Low volume of amniotic fluide	3 (2,3)
Macrosomia	2 (1,5)
Uterus with scar	2 (1,5)
Cholestasis of pregnancy	3 (2,3)
Others	5 (4,5)

This table shows us that most inductions were indicated for PROM, post term/prolonged pregnancy, gestational diabetes and severe pre-eclampsia in 26.6% respectively 19.9%, 19.1% and 12.2%.

### 3.5. Bishop's score

This figure shows that in almost all triggered women, the bishop was less than or equal to 6.



**Figure 4:** Distribution of participants according to Bishop score.

### 4. Methods used

Variables	n(%)
Induction with maturation	
Detachment	23(16.7)
Propess	59(42.8)
Balloon	6(4.3)
Amniotomy	8(5.8)
Induction without maturation	
Oxytocin	42(30.4)
Maturation +oxytocin	121(87.7)

It appears from this table that the most used triggering techniques were the use of propess (42.8%) as well as oxytocin (30%) followed by detachment (16.7%). 87.7% of pregnant benefited from the induction by cervical ripening followed by oxytocin and 12.7% did not need oxytocin after ripening.

#### 4.1. Time elapsed between induction and delivery

Time between induction and delivery (hours)	n=138	%
<8 hours	55	39,9
8-24 hours	49	35,5
>24 hours	34	24,6

It emerges from this table that the median time elapsed between induction and delivery was 9 hours (EIQ: 5-25 hours). In most of the induced women, delivery had taken place before 8 clock (39.9%, 35.5 between 8-24 and 24.6% after 24 clock obstetric identity combined),

#### 4.2. Outcome of the trigger

**Table 6:** Distribution of participants according to the outcome of the trigger.

Variables	n(%)
Vaginal birth	108(78.3)
Without instrument	94(68.1)
With instrument	14(10.1)
C-section birth	30(21.7)
Failure of the induction	8(5.8)
FHRA	21(15.4)
Disproportion	1(0.7)
Breech birth	1(0.7)

This table highlights that almost all inductions resulted in vaginal delivery (78.3%) and caesarean section was indicated in 21.7% of cases, the main indication of which was Fetal Heart Rate Abnormalities (FHRA) in 15% of cases. It should be noted that of the 4 pregnant women triggered for FHRA there were 3 caesarean sections.

**Table 7:** Distribution of participants according to induction outcome and delivery route.

Uterus		Results		Pvalue
		Vaginal birth	C-section	
Uterus without scar	126	101(80.2)	25(19.8)	0.055
Uterus with scar	12	7(58.3)	5(41.7)	

This table shows us that 12 scarred uterus triggered 58.3% gave birth vaginally and 41.7% by caesarean section. Most caesarean sections were performed on healthy uterus 25 pregnant Vs 5 pregnant

#### 4.3. Fetal outcome

**Table 8:** Distribution of participants according to the Apgar of newborns.

Variables	n (%)
Apgar score	
<7	8(5.8%)
≥7	130(94.2%)
Transfert in neonatology	
Yes	6(4.3)
No	132(95.7)

This table highlights that 94.2% of children had an Apgar greater than 6, and 4.3% an Apgar less than 6, but among them 6 or 4.3% were transferred to the Neonatology unit.

## 5. Determining Factors of Induction Failure

### 5.1. Participant Profile and Trigger Outcome

**Table 9:** Distribution according to the outcome of the triggering and the general profile of the participants.

Variables	n=138	Results of the induction of labor		p-value
		Vaginal birth n=108	C-section n=30	
Age				
≤30 ans	52(37.7)	42(38.9)	10(33.3)	0.364
>30 ans	86(62.3)	66(61.1)	20(66.7)	
Parity				
Primiparous	44(31.9)	39(36.1)	5(16.7)	0.203
Multiparous	94(68.1)	69(63.9)	25(83.3)	
Gesture				
Primigest	37(26.8)	27(25)	10(33.3)	0.101
Multigravida	101(73.2)	81(75)	20(66.7)	

This table shows us that failure to induce labor was observed more in women over 30 years of age (66.7%), with multiparous (83.3%) and multigravida (66.7%) status, but the differences were not statistically significant in both groups.

### 5.2. Participant Clinical Data and Trigger Outcome

**Table 10:** Distribution by Induction Outcome and Participant Clinical Information.

Variables	n=138	Results of the induction of labor		p-value
		Vaginal birth n=108	C-section n=30	
Uterus				
With scar	15(10.9)	12(11.1)	3(10)	0.079
Without scar	123(89.1)	96(88.9)	27(90)	
Term of pregnancy				
before term	7(5.1)	5(4.6)	2(6.7)	0.950
Term	131(94.9)	103(95.4)	28(93.3)	
Bishop score				
≤6	106(76.8)	82(75.9)	24(80)	0.714
>6	32(23.2)	26(24.1)	6(20)	
Technique of induction of labor				
Detachment	23(16.7)	15(15)	8 (21.1)	0.394
Proper	59(42.8)	44(44)	15 (39.5)	0.631
Balloon	6(4.3)	5(5)	1 (2.6)	0.542
Amniotomy	8(5.8)	3 (3)	5 (13.2)	0.023
Oxytocin	121(87.7)	89 (89)	32 (84.2)	0.444
Time elapsed				
< 9 heures	65(47.1)	53(49)	12(40)	0.049
≥9 heures	73(52.9)	55(50.9)	18(60)	



It emerges from this table that induction failure was significantly found in women with whom the time elapsed between induction and childbirth was more than 9 hours (60% p=0.049), benefiting from amniotomy (13.2% p=0.023).

### 5.3. Determinants of failed induction of labor

Determinants	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
	P	OR (IC95%)	P	ORa (IC95%)
Amniotomy	0.023	4.9(1.1-21.6)	0.362	1.9(0.8-4.9)
Time elapsed $\geq 9$ heures	0.049	1.3(1-2.8)	0.029	2.6(1.5-4.7)

In univariate analysis, the determinants of failed induction of labor were early amniotomy and a time elapsed between induction and delivery of more than 9 hours.

In multivariate analysis, the strength of association observed in univariate only persisted for a time elapsed between induction and delivery of more than 9 hours [ORa: 2.6 95% CI (1.5-4.7) p=0.029].

## Discussion

### 1. Frequency of induction of labor

During the period of this study, we recorded 138 cases of artificial induction of labor, i.e. a frequency of 24.5% out of a total number of 563 deliveries at the Gynecology-Obstetrics Department of CHAN. This frequency is far higher than that found by Mariam DOLO (Bamako 2010), who reported 160/8699 inductions of labor, i.e. a frequency of 1.84% [34]. Adama Coulibaly (Mali 2019), in his study records 102 cases of artificial induction of labor as well as Kouam and Coll [35], who note 9.82% at the maternity hospital of Yaoundé University Hospital in Cameroon.

Indeed, the frequency of onset is very variable from one region to another and even from one health establishment to another [36-40]. Despite this notion of significant disparity, the trigger rate is generally higher in European countries than in the least developed countries. In 2004 the frequency of induction was 22.1% in the United States and 19.3% in 2003 in France according to the French national survey. This difference between European countries and developing countries in terms of induction

of labor could be explained by the large number of inductions for personal convenience carried out in these countries. For example, in France, the frequency of inductions for medical indication has remained stable, while the frequency of indications for convenience has increased over time [41].

### 2. Sociodemographic data of the study population

#### 2.1. Participant ages

This study found a mean age of 30.9 years with a standard deviation of 6 years. Most were between 30 and 44 years old, or 66.7% of cases. The almost similar results are reported in several series in the literature, including:

- Julia Blanchot (France 2011), in her study, notes an average maternal age of  $32.3 \pm 5.4$  years [42].
- Mariam DOLO (Bamako 2010), finds that the women concerned were aged between 20-34 years (50.61%) with an average of 27 years (Extremes: 16 and 43 years) [34].
- Adama Coulibaly (Mali 2019), reports the age group of 28 to 32 years

(56.86%) with an average of 27 years and the extremes of 18 to 38 years [43].

Indeed, the high representativeness of maternal age around the thirties is also supported in several other publications, Sangaré M. [44] and de DOLO M [34] who find 50.61% for the age group of 20 -34 years old; Minebois for the age below 30 years: which seems completely normal, because this age group corresponds to the period of full genital activity of the woman.

### 3. Participants' clinical data

In the present study, the majority of participants were multiparous (68.1%) and the proportion of multigravid was 73.2%. This observation is similar to that of Mariam DOLO (Bamako 2010), who finds multiparous and pauciparous with respectively 32% and 29% [34]. On the other hand, SANGARE M. [44] observed more of a high proportion of pauciparous and nulliparous during his study at the Point G University Hospital in Bamako, Mali. Likewise Julia Blanchot (France 2011), who reports more primiparous than multiparous (118 vs 86) [42]; Hellene Minbois in her study reported nullipara at 34% and multipara at 18% [45]. Laughon SK et al., showed that the position and consistency of the cervix did not influence the prediction of the success of induction by oxytocin-amniotomy [46] whereas parity would intervene considerably in the chances of successful induction. [47]. Indeed, the authors think parity seems to have an important influence on the future of childbirth in the induction policy. This is the case with Parry E and Coll [48], who confirmed this during a retrospective study on the induction of labor in the past term. We also noted that almost all inductions were performed on full-term pregnancies, i.e. 95% of cases. Just like Julia Blanchot (France 2011), who reports an average gestational age of 40 weeks of amenorrhea [42].

#### 3.1. Trigger indications

Of the 138 inductions carried out during this study, 131 or 95% were for medical indications

and 7 or 5% for convenience. Among the medical indications, PROM came first with 26.6% followed by overterm/prolonged pregnancy, gestational diabetes and severe pre-eclampsia with respectively 19.9%, 19.1% and 9.2%. those of other authors, in particular, Julia Blanchot (France 2011), who finds prolonged pregnancies (32.6%) and premature rupture of membranes (22.5%) as indications [42]. Minebois in France 2017 find RPM at 16.2% followed by PES at 10.5% As does Mariam DOLO (Bamako 2010), and who notes in her study, the overrun of term in most patents [45]. And Adama Coulibaly (Mali 2019), who also reports premature rupture of membranes with 40.2% [43]. Indeed, these same indications are also reported in the literature [48-53]. This study also noted that in almost all triggered women, the bishop was less than or equal to 6. This observation is consistent with that of Julia Blanchot (France 2011), who notes in her study an average Bishop score of  $4, 3 \pm 2.2$ , which is significantly higher in the event of convenience induction than during medical indication induction: respectively  $6.5 \pm 1.3$  versus  $3.9 \pm 2.1$  ( $p < 0.01$ ) [42].

### 4. Methods used and time elapsed between induction and delivery

In the present study, the most used induction techniques were the use of proress (42.8%) followed by oxytocin (30%) and detachment (16.7%). (87.7%) of pregnant women benefited from induction by maturation plus oxytocin and 12% from cervical maturation without oxytocin. The median time elapsed between induction and delivery was 9 hours (IQS: 5-25 hours). In most induced women, delivery took place 18 hours later (32.6%). These observations go in the same direction as that of Julia Blanchot (France 2011), who notes in her study an average duration of  $5.5 \pm 2.8$  hours but in line with the study of Minebois in France in which the balloon was the most used method 35.2% and proress 28.6% [42].

## 5. Outcome of the trigger

This study noted that almost all inductions were sanctioned by vaginal delivery (78.3%) and cesarean section was indicated in 21.7% of cases. The main indication was ARCF in 13% of cases. Similar results are also reported by Julia Blanchot (France 2011), who finds in her study that the rate of spontaneous lower tract was 59% in the context of a medical indication trigger against 76.9% in the context of a triggering of convenience [42]. The caesarean section rate was 25.3% in the context of medically indicated induction and 3.8% in the context of convenience induction. Likewise Mariam DOLO (Bamako 2010), who reports in her study that of the 160 pregnant women admitted for induction, 158 gave birth vaginally. The failure rate was 1.23% [34]. Adama Coulibaly (Mali 2019), Out of 102 pregnant women admitted for induction, we recorded 94 vaginal passages and 8 cesarean sections [43]. The failure rate was therefore 7.84%; in his study Minebois in 2016 reports 105 cases of induction with 90.5% success, 72% vaginal delivery 9% cesarean delivery [45].

## 6. Fetal outcome

This series noted that the majority of children had an Apgar greater than 6, except eight children, of whom 6 or 4.3% were transferred to the Neonatology unit. Just like Mariam DOLO (Bamako 2010), who recorded no maternal or fetal deaths [34]. Nasreen Abbasi et al [53] reported that live neonates were generally well with an Apgar greater than or equal to 7 out of 10 at the first minute in 88.75%, which is the expected result when an indication is given. Trigger. This result is comparable to that of Diallo D. [54] who found 74.6% with an Apgar score greater than 7. i.e. 32.8%. The follow-up to neonatology care was simple. Our referral rate in neonatology is due to the protocol of the service indicating to address all indications of artificial induction of labor to CHAN pediatricians for a thorough evaluation of the newborn.

## 7. Determinants of failed induction of labor

This study noted as determinants of failure to induce labor: early amniotomy and a time elapsed between induction and delivery of more than 9 hours, i.e. a risk multiplied by 3 [ORa: 2.6 95% CI (1.5-4.7) p=0.029]. This is also confirmed in several series in the literature, which say that the longer the delay, the higher the failure rate (32, 33, 34). Of 8 pregnant women who had early amniotomy we had 5 failures, of 4 pregnant women triggered for ARCF we had 3 failures, and all with a delay of more than 24 hours

The leading cause of caesareans was ARCF.

## Conclusion

In our structure, almost all of the inductions were sanctioned by a vaginal delivery. Nevertheless, there are a few cases of failure having mainly as determinants early amniotomy on an unfavorable Bishop Score and a time elapsed between induction and delivery of more than 9 hours. Hence the need to clearly state the indication, to respect the conditions, to adopt a corresponding method and to ensure close follow-up in order to avoid any complications that could lead to failure.

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