

# Induction of labour at Mildura Base Public Hospital, Mildura, a regional city in North-West Victoria, Australia

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## Introduction

Induction of labour is a common intervention in contemporary obstetric care. It is defined as an intervention leading to the onset of labour. It is indicated when benefits of delivery outweigh the risks to mother or baby, of performing the intervention and importantly, of not doing so. Consensus regarding appropriate criteria for induction is lacking. Because of this, the rate of induction varies worldwide from as high as 33 percent in some parts of Europe to 6% in third world nations. In Australia the rate has increased steadily from about 30% in 2010 to more than 46.8% in 2019, particularly in metropolitan centres.

## Aims.

To demonstrate efficacy and safety of contemporary practice. To advocate compliance with evidence-based practice for best treatment outcomes and patient safety.

## Methods

This retrospective, cohort study looks at IOL outcomes over a 4-year period, including the COVID pandemic. It compares success rate for different methods of IOL.

## Discussion

Success of induction is affected significantly by cervical ripening. When AROM is possible, best outcome is achieved with minimal intervention. When single induction agents are required, Balloon and Cervidil are equally effective. COVID had no significant effect on outcomes. These results are consistent with expectations and demonstrate compliance with best practice guidelines and a template for continued safe patient care.