

# Membrane Sweeping and its effects on Post-Term Induction Rates

## What is membrane sweeping?

- Common procedure performed after 39 weeks of pregnancy to induce labor naturally
- Involves inserting a gloved finger into your cervix to loosen the amniotic sac from your uterus
- Often suggested as the first option to get labor started naturally before scheduling an induction date



## Indications for labor induction

- Post-term pregnancy (>42 weeks)
- Health conditions that may threaten mother/baby's health
- Amniotic sac has broken, but no active contractions has started

## Why do it?

- In uncomplicated pregnancies, membrane sweeping near term is an effective method of hastening the onset of labor
- Women who undergo membrane sweeping are less likely to need formal induction of labor

**Potential complications:** rupture of membranes, intra/postpartum infection

**Side effects:** irregular contractions, vaginal bleeding, and maternal discomfort



Membrane sweeping is intimate and personal. It is important for healthcare providers to explain to women the risk and benefits of membrane sweeping.