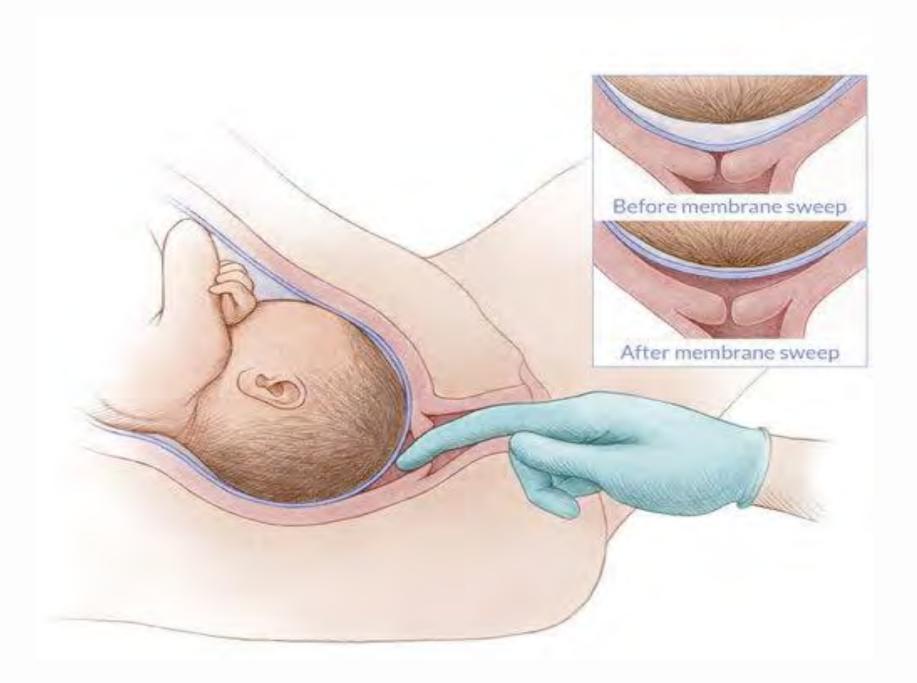
Membrane Sweeping and its effects on Post-Term Induction Rates

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



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

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

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.

