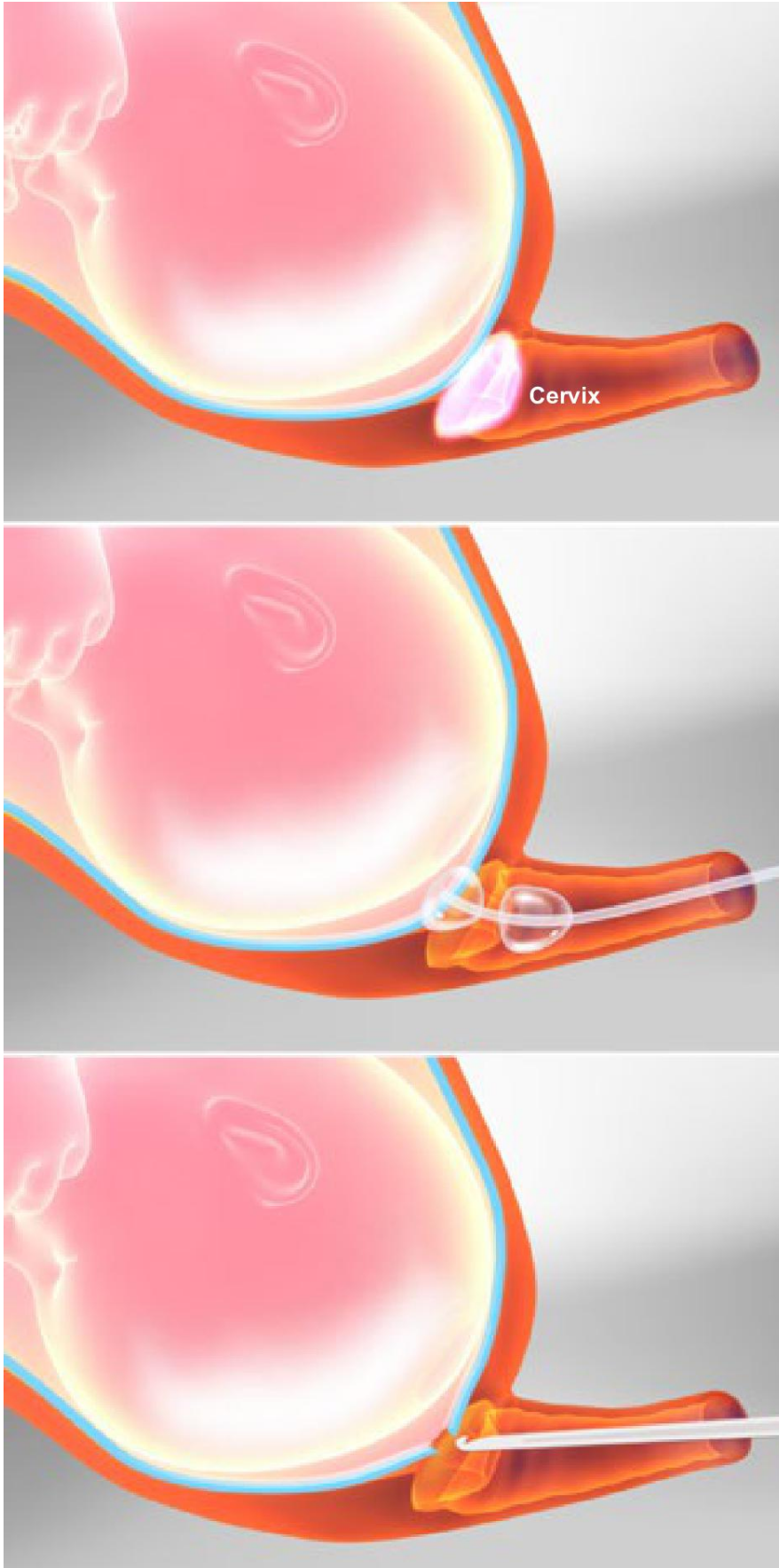




Labor Induction



Overview

Sometimes we need to help your uterus start the process of childbirth. We call this "labor induction." Most often, we do it to avoid danger to your health, or the health of your baby. It does have risks. But we recommend it when the benefits outweigh the risks.

How it's done

How is it done? There are a few methods to help your cervix soften and open. We may give you a medication by mouth. We could stimulate your cervix with a hormone gel or suppository. Or, we can use a catheter with one or two small saline-filled balloons to open your cervix.

Other options

Once it begins to open, there are other ways to induce labor. We can gently separate the amniotic sac from the uterine wall. We could give you a hormone called "oxytocin" through your bloodstream. It makes your uterus start contracting (or makes the contractions stronger). We could carefully puncture your amniotic sac with a small, plastic hook. One or more of these methods may be used for you.

Labor

After induction, how long does it take to go into labor? That depends on your body and how it responds. If you need just a little help to start the process, you may go into labor very quickly. Or, it may be days before your labor begins.

Conclusion

For most women, labor induction leads to a vaginal birth. But induction doesn't always work. And if it doesn't, you may need a C-section. For more info, talk to your healthcare provider.