

Patient Information: Assisted Vaginal Delivery

Assisted vaginal delivery by Forceps or Vacuum (Ventouse) may be required to deliver your baby. A Forceps delivery involves the use of a special instrument placed around the baby's head in order to assist vaginal delivery. A Vacuum delivery involves the attachment of a small suction cup to the baby's scalp in order to assist delivery.

The most common indications for assisted vaginal delivery are failure to advance in the second stage of labour (when the cervix is fully dilated) and concern in relation to your baby's ability to cope with the continuation of labour. A midwife will be present during assisted delivery in order to provide you with personal support. Effective pain relief will also be provided prior to delivery.

A paediatrician will also attend the delivery in order to look after your baby.

Your partner will be encouraged to remain with you throughout the delivery. If you require assisted delivery for your first baby, you are very likely to have a normal vaginal delivery in subsequent labours.

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