**BACKGROUND**

Cervical ripening agents aid in the softening and dilating of the cervix during the induction of labor.

- Non-Mechanical: prostaglandins, Pitocin
- Mechanical: laminaria, Foley catheter, extra-amniotic saline infusion

Foley catheters are a safe and effective cervical ripening agent in women with intact membranes.

- Advantages: simplicity of use, low cost, reversibility and decreased risk of systemic or serious side effects

**OBJECTIVE**

Our case series aimed to discuss the maternal and neonatal outcomes of women at or beyond 38 weeks gestation with ruptured membranes who received a Foley catheter for labor induction and to contribute to the current evidence.

**METHODS**

Retrospective chart review of women ≥18 years of age who presented to an Aurora Health Care facility with ruptured membranes from January 2011 through March 2016 were included.

Inclusion criteria further required women to have:
- Singleton pregnancy at or beyond 33 completed weeks of gestation
- Patients were excluded if they did not have a Foley catheter placed in the state of ruptured membranes.

Patient medical records were obtained and further reviewed through our electronic medical records.

- Following chart review in EPIC, we identified that many of the patients did not have a Foley catheter placed in the state of ruptured membranes.
- Out of the 73 patients identified with Foley catheter placement, only 7 patients had a Foley catheter placed in the state of ruptured membranes.
- The majority of patients had a Foley catheter placed in the setting of intact membranes who then inadvertently underwent rupture of membranes and the Foley catheter was removed.
- Therefore, our study warranted a case series.

**RESULTS**

- Of the 7 patients who met inclusion criteria, 6 (85.7%) delivered within the same hospital.
- Women were of mean age 30.9 years, with mean body mass index of 30.8 kg/m² and gestational age 38.7 weeks.
- Women were predominantly White non-Hispanic (85.7%) and married (57.4%).
- None had a history of diabetes, hypertension or anemia this pregnancy. However, one patient ultimately met criteria for gestational hypertension during labor.
- Only one patient was diagnosed with PROM and required early admission to the hospital prior to the induction of labor.
- All others (85.7%) were diagnosed with PROM at term.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Similar to other studies, our case series suggested that the use of Foley catheter for cervical ripening in the state of ruptured membrane is safe and effective.

We hope that our case series encourages randomized prospective clinical trials that will further investigate the complications of Foley catheter placement in the state of ruptured membranes, specifically as it relates to:
- The rate of intrauterine infection when compared to other induction methods.
- The correlation between positive GBS status and Foley catheter placement.
- The effectiveness of Foley catheters as a cervical ripening agent for the induction of labor in PROM for gestational ages ≥34 weeks.

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