

## Cesarean Section Consent

A Cesarean section is a surgery to deliver your baby through an incision in the abdominal wall and uterus. All procedures can be associated with risk and unforeseen complications. These risks and complications can be immediate or delayed.

Risks and complications of a cesarean section include, but are not limited to:

- Infection of the uterus, pelvic organs, or skin. Infection is the most common complication of a Cesarean section. The risk of infection may be increased with the duration of labor, diabetes, or obesity.
- Inadvertent injury to internal organs, such as bowel or bladder. If there is major injury, extensive surgery may be required. If injury is minor, it may be treated with relative ease.
- Blood loss and transfusion. Minor to moderate bleeding usually can be controlled. If severe bleeding occurs, transfusion may be necessary. Performing a hysterectomy for uncontrolled bleeding is rare.
- Blood clots can develop in the legs, pelvic organs, or lungs. Clotting can be life threatening. Sequential compression devices, SCD's, are used during and after surgery to minimize the risk of clotting. Worn around the legs, SCD's are sleeves in which air is pumped, intermittent pressure is applied, and the flow of blood ensured.
- Adverse reaction to medications or anesthesia administered during the Cesarean section.
- Development of placenta previa and placenta accreta with a subsequent pregnancy. A cesarean delivery increases your risk of having either placenta previa; the placenta covers the opening to the cervix, or placenta accreta; the placenta improperly attaches to the uterine wall. Placenta previa and placenta accreta can be a life threatening conditions to the mother. Both placenta previa and placenta accreta can occur after a vaginal delivery, yet after a Cesarean section, chances increase.
- Increased risk of a Cesarean section in subsequent pregnancies.
- Accidental laceration of the baby while making the incision in the uterus, 0.4%.

I have read and understand the above information regarding the potential risks and complications of a Cesarean section. I have had the opportunity to discuss the above information with my physician and all of my questions have been answered.

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Patient

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Date

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Witness

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Date

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Physician

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Date