

Induction of Labor

After being induced it can take anywhere between a few hours to up to three days to go into labor.



FIRST STAGE OF LABOR Getting to complete cervical dilation • With induction, this stage can take up to 24 hours or longer.

Ways to start labor may include the following:

Prostaglandins (Misoprostol)

- Placed inside the vagina to cause thinning or ripening (softening) of the cervix so that it will open during labor

Sweeping the membranes

- Your provider sweeps a gloved finger over the thin membranes that connect the amniotic sac to the wall of your uterus
- Done when the cervix is partially dilated
- May cause your body to release natural prostaglandins, which soften the cervix further and may cause contractions

Cervical ripening balloon

- A balloon catheter with saline placed in the cervix

Oxytocin (Pitocin)

- Used to bring on contractions
- Contractions usually start in about 30 minutes after oxytocin is given
- It is given at least 12–18 hours after sweeping the membranes

Rupturing the membranes

- Done only if the cervix is partially dilated and thinned
- “Water breaking”

1 cm

2 cm

4 cm

6 cm
“In labor”

10 cm
Complete cervical dilation

SECOND STAGE OF LABOR From complete cervical dilation to delivery of the baby

This stage can take anywhere from 30 minutes to 4 hours.