

UNIT NO.
NAME
ADDRESS
BIRTH DATE:
VISIT NUMBER:

(If handwritten, record name, unit no., birth date, and visit no.)

YALE-NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL
DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS

Consent for Vaginal Birth
After Cesarean Section
(VBAC)

CONSENT FOR VAGINAL BIRTH AFTER CESAREAN SECTION (VBAC)

I have had one prior cesarean section, leaving a scar on the uterus. I have the option of under going an elective repeat cesarean section or attempting a vaginal birth after cesarean section (VBAC). In order to make this decision, I have been provided with information about risks and benefits of each choice. I understand:

- That this history increases my risk of complications regardless of the type of delivery with this pregnancy.
- That there is a risk of uterine rupture during pregnancy or labor; with my history of having an incision in the non-contracting part of the uterus, the risk after one prior cesarean section is approximately 1%. The majority of ruptures occur during labor, but rarely a rupture can occur prior to the onset of labor.
- While most uterine ruptures do not result in permanent damage or death of the mother or infant, there is a small chance that the infant could die or have permanent brain damage as a result of a uterine rupture.
- That a repeat cesarean section is major abdominal surgery and repeated cesarean sections may hurt my future ability to become pregnant.
- That a repeat cesarean section for delivery increases my future risk of placental abnormalities, including situations in which the placenta may stick to the uterine wall so tightly that it cannot be removed. If this occurs, I may bleed heavily and have to have an immediate hysterectomy (which means I will no longer be able to have children) to remove the uterus. Bleeding in these situations may be heavy enough that I may die, although this is quite rare.
- That if I have a placenta previa (where the placenta covers the opening from the uterus to the vagina), I must have a repeat cesarean section.
- That the majority of women who select a VBAC will have a successful vaginal delivery.
- That during the VBAC, the use of oxytocin (Pitocin) to make my uterus contract may be necessary to assist me in my vaginal delivery. The risks associated with the use of Pitocin will be explained to me if it is to be used.
- That a VBAC carries a lower overall risk to me than a cesarean section but carries a higher risk of uterine rupture than a cesarean section.
- That if I do deliver vaginally, I am likely to experience fewer delivery complications and have a shorter hospital stay than if I delivered by cesarean section.

I have read the above and have had the opportunity to ask questions; any questions have been answered to my satisfaction. The decision to have a VBAC or elective repeat cesarean section is entirely my own.

I request a repeat cesarean section.

I request to attempt a vaginal birth after cesarean section.

Patient's Signature: _____

Patient's Name: _____ Date: _____

Attending Obstetrician's Signature: _____

Attending Obstetrician's Name: _____ Date: _____