

USE OF FUNDAL PRESSURE DURING THE SECOND STAGE OF LABOUR

Pressure is sometimes applied to the fundus of the uterus with the intention of shortening the duration of the second stage of labour.

There are no medically validated indications for the application of fundal pressure.

Patients and their families find the experience traumatic and, for this reason, and because there may be rare but serious complications, the practice should be discontinued.

When the second stage of labour needs to be shortened, it is recommended that either instrumental delivery (forceps, ventouse cap) or a caesarean section be used, depending on the clinical context.

If fundal pressure is applied despite these recommendations, this must be noted in the patient's file by the person in charge (details of context, procedures used, and any difficulties encountered).