

Breech Birth Assessment

When determining the feasibility of attempting a breech delivery, this scoring index is of great help. However, it remains paramount that the midwife use her own judgment as well. Never attempt a delivery for which you have neither the skill nor the experience. Even when you have determined that there are no predisposing factors against the delivery, if your heart shouts "No!", don't do it!

Breech Index Scoring System			
	0	1	2
Parity		Primip	Multip
Gestational Age	>=39 wks	37-38 wks.	36-37 wks.
Estimated Weight	8 lb.	7-8 lb.	5-7 lb.
Dilation	2 cm.	3 cm.	>=4 cm.
Station	-3	-2	<= -1
Previous breech	0	1	>=2
Score			

This assessment is designed to be made at the onset of labor. A client would be scored as follows:

A multipara (score 2) with a baby who weighs between 7 and 8 pounds (score 1), at station -3 (score 0), dilation 4 cm (score 2), no previous breech babies (score 0), would have a total score of 5.

A score of less than 3 would indicate the need for a cesarean section.

A score of 4 to 5 indicates a careful review must be made and suggests one should proceed with caution.

A score of 5 or more would indicate a reasonable chance for a successful vaginal delivery. Of course, some moderating factors exist. If a multipara has had two 9-pound babies vaginally and this baby is of similar size, she should do fine as long as the baby does not go postdates. I usually subtract one point for footling breeches because they are somewhat more difficult to manage.

In general, I have found this system to be very reliable for predicting outcome.