

Treatment of post-term labor (methods of induction)

<i>Drug/Treatment</i>	<i>Effect</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Oxytocin (Pitocin, Syntocinon)	Used to augment labor; oxytocin has little effect on unripe cervix	Production of endogenous oxytocin can be increased by nipple stimulation; nasla spray used for milk ejection; intrinsic ADH action
PGF agonists, e.g. dinoprostone, Cervidil, Prepidil	Prostaglandin, stimulates uterine contractions, cervical ripening, induction of labor	Effects depend on expression of receptors. Also used as abortifacient.
Misoprostol (Cytotec)	Synthetic PGE analogue; used to reduce acid in the stomach; breakdown of decidua	Can cause the uterus to contract; nausea and diarrhea
Mifepristone (RU-489; Mifegyne)	Antiprogestin	Primarily used to induce first trimester abortion
Methylergonovine maleate (Methergine) Ergonovine (Ergotrate maleate)	Ergot alkaloid	Usually for postpartum delivery of the placenta

Alpha adrenergic stimulation results in uterine contractions.